



1

# DARK KNIGHTS RISE

THE WILD HUNT

DARK KNIGHTS  
**METAL**  
TIE-IN



**Snyder • Morrison**

**Tynion IV • Williamson**

**Porter • Jimenez • Mahnke • Mendoza**

**Hi-Fi • Sanchez • Quintana**

RATED **T+** TEEN PLUS

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**NOW.**

"THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING..."

HURRY!



I used to know who wrote that--

FASTER, MAN! FASTER!

Now I'm trying to remember--



**THEN.**

Trying to make sense of why I had to remember in the first place--

And the yelling in the background. "Faster!" Always, faster!

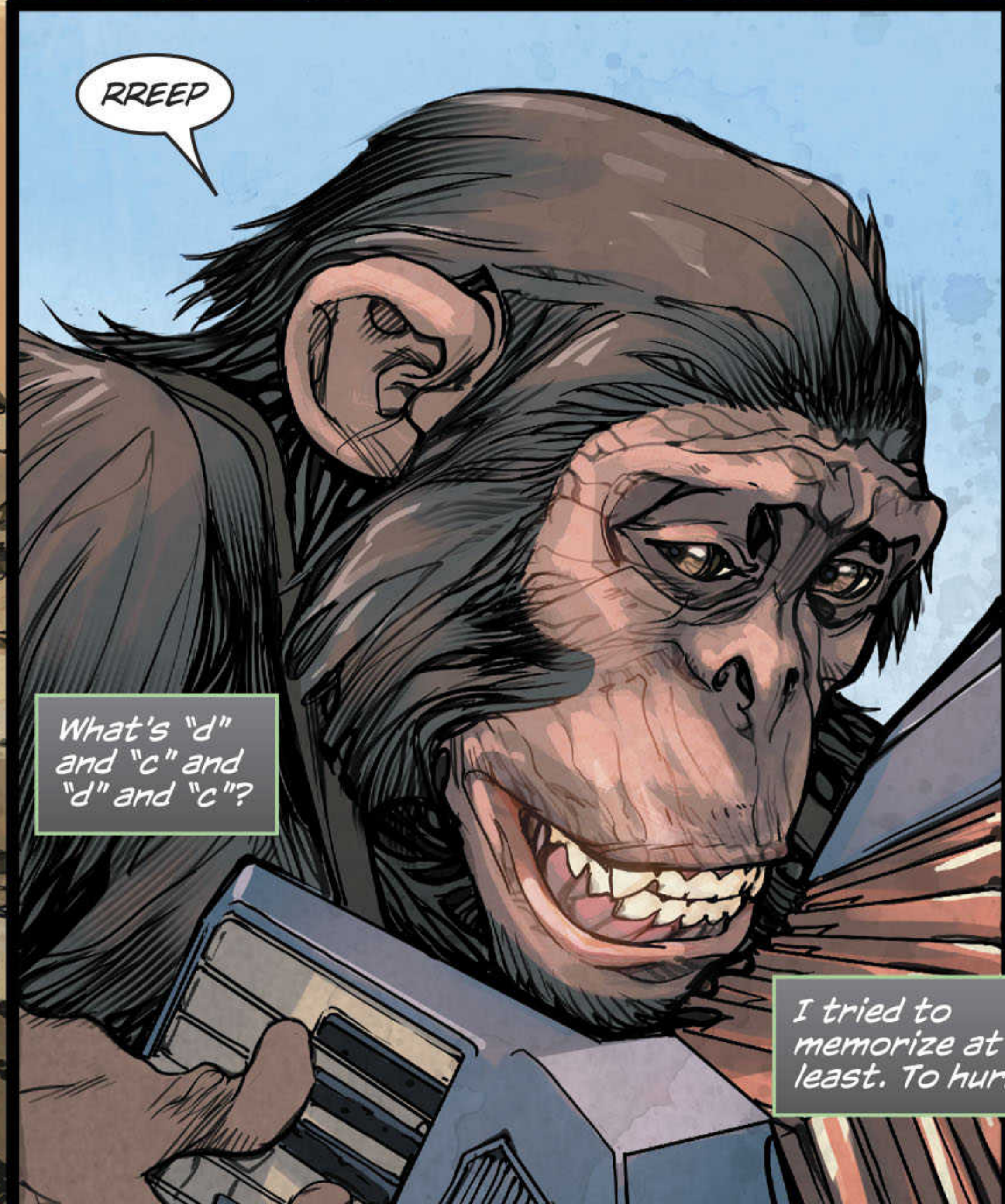
There was a song--it was always a song--the chords that day went "d" and "c" and "d" and "c"...



What did that mean?

Just another pattern I couldn't see or read.

What does a poor chimp know about chords and notation?



RREEP

What's "d" and "c" and "d" and "c"?

I tried to memorize at least. To hurry!



How could I know what I couldn't understand?

I thought every day would be my last.

The cruelest lesson I learned? They wanted me to fail. My limitations...comforted them...made them gleeful.



There was only ever one out of all of them who was kind...



His name was Fred.

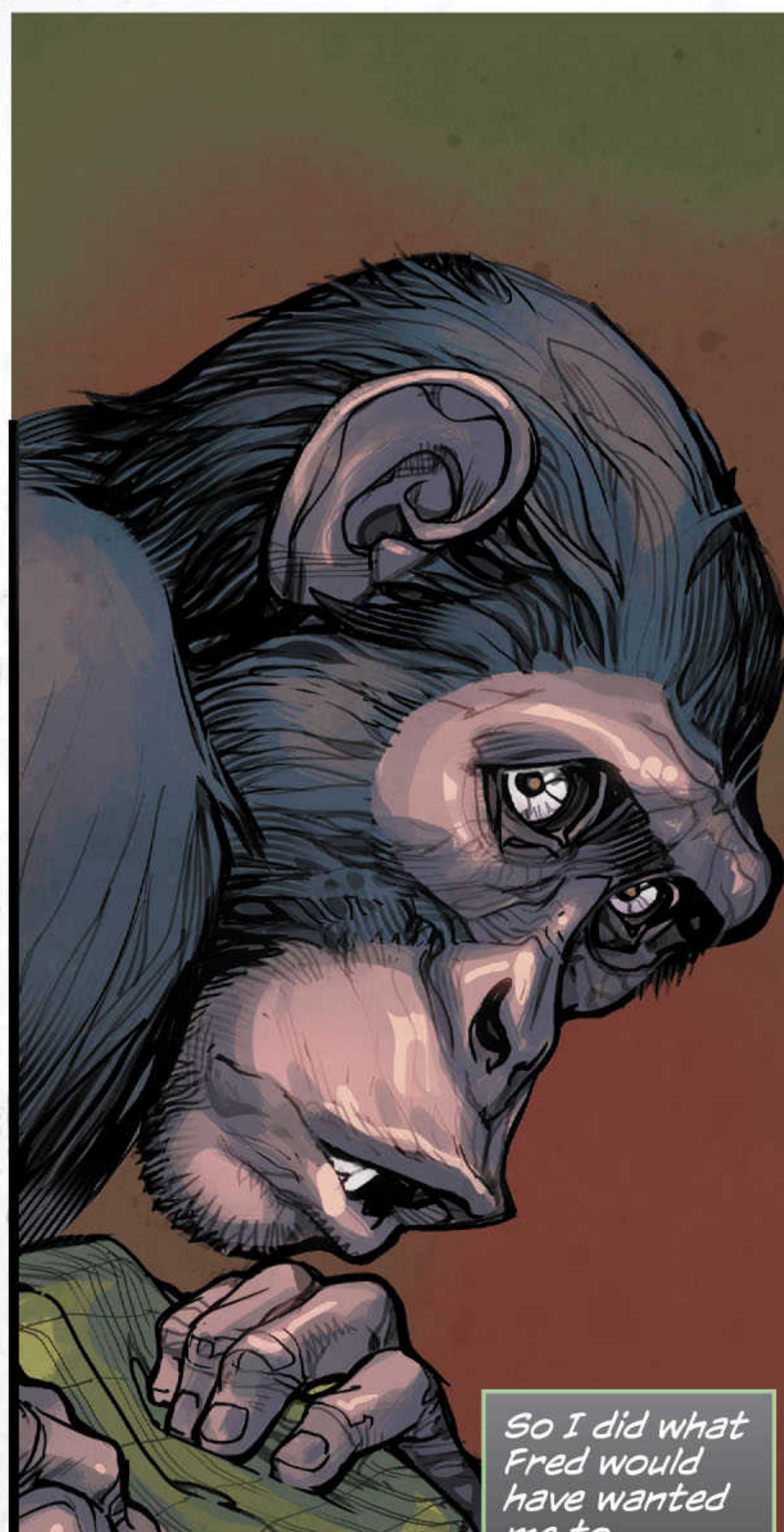
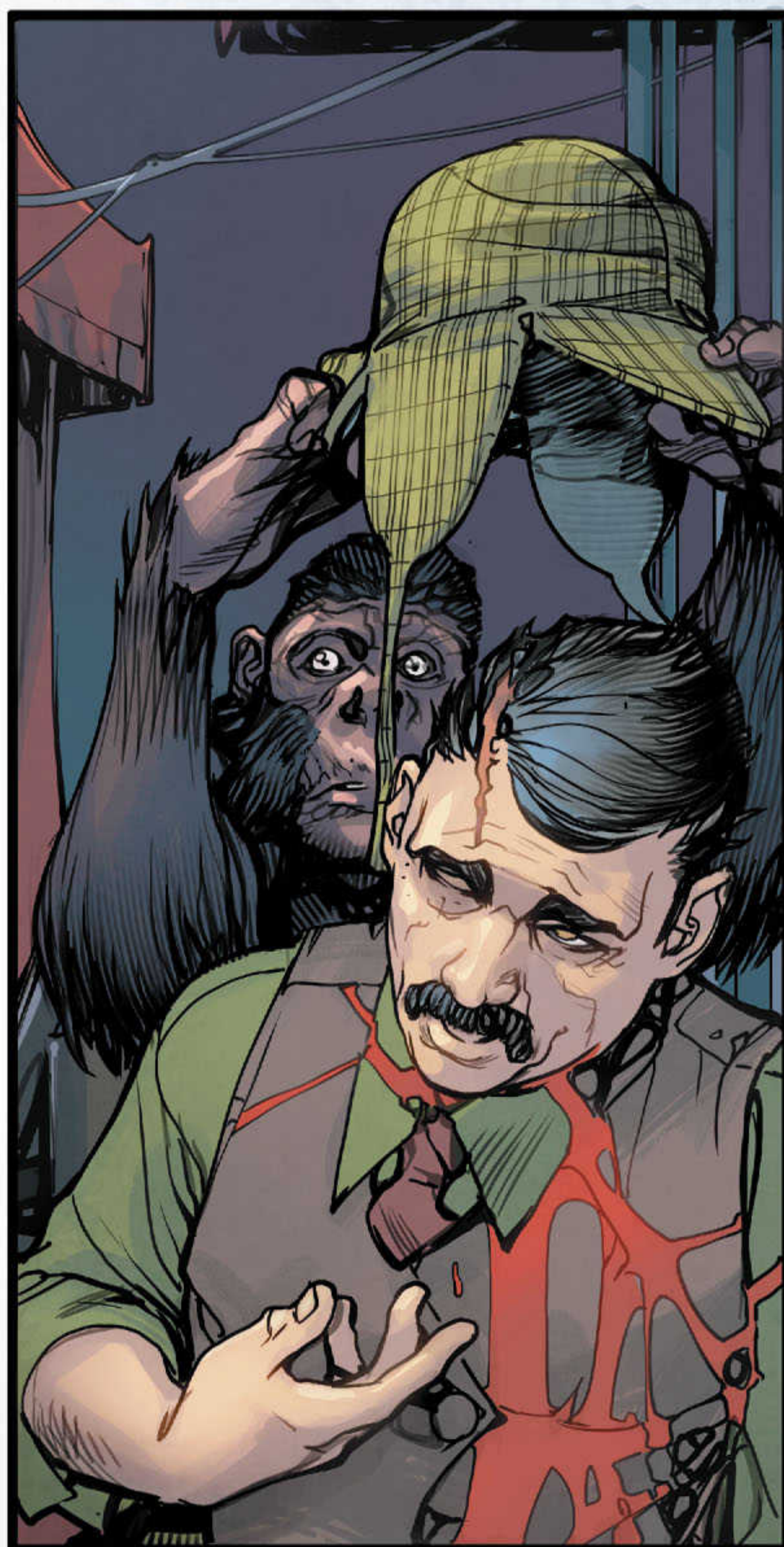
The rumor was he'd been injured as a young man in battle. His head wasn't right, exactly. They said he heard things.

He was kind to me, fed me after they left. Tried to help me learn my song.



They killed him.

But Fred's last decent act in this world was to leave unlocked the cage I'd lived in most of my life.



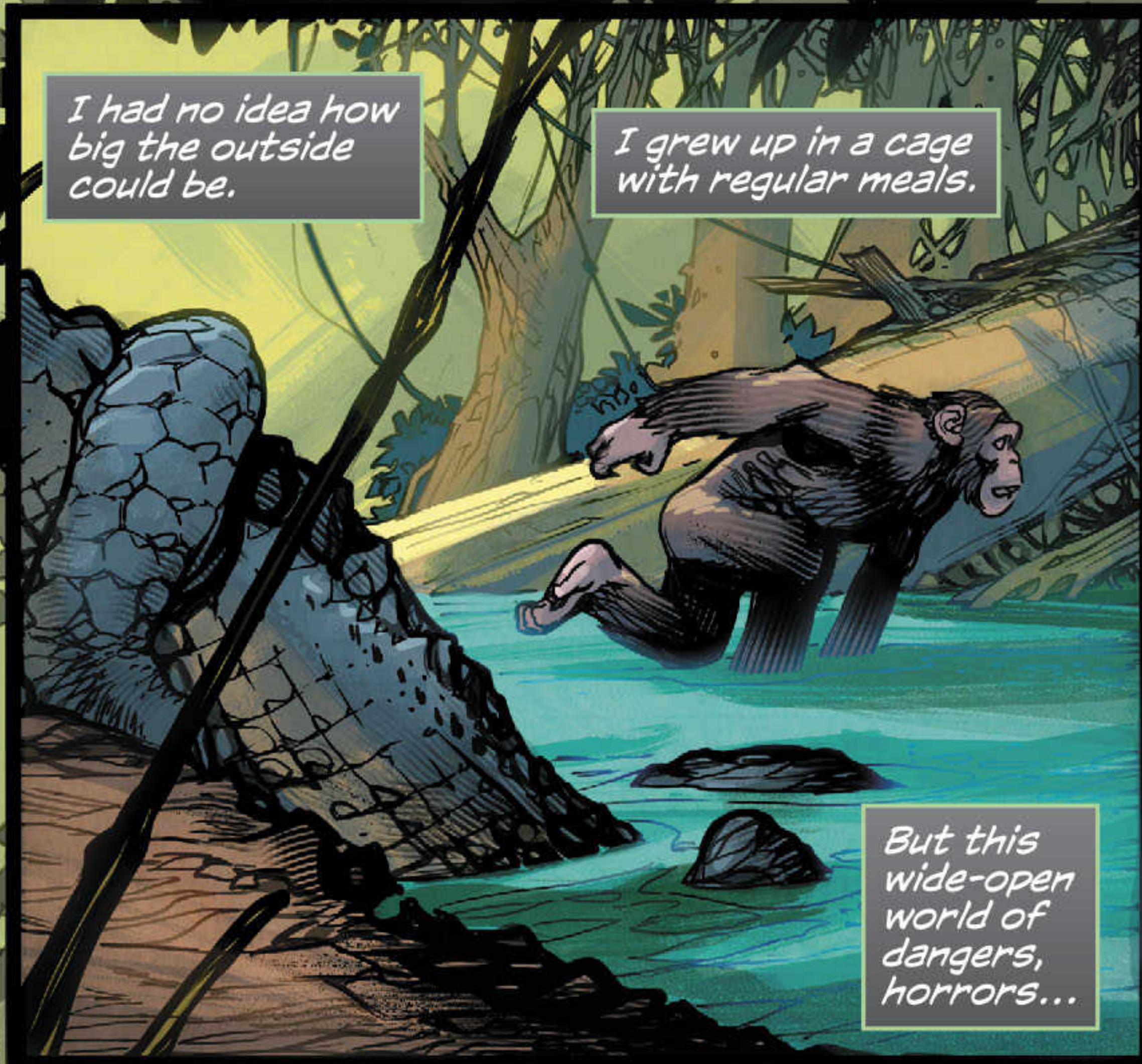
So I did what Fred would have wanted me to.





I ran from that awful place.

I ran into the night and the endless swamp during a hot tropical storm.



I had no idea how big the outside could be.

I grew up in a cage with regular meals.

But this wide-open world of dangers, horrors...



Wonders...

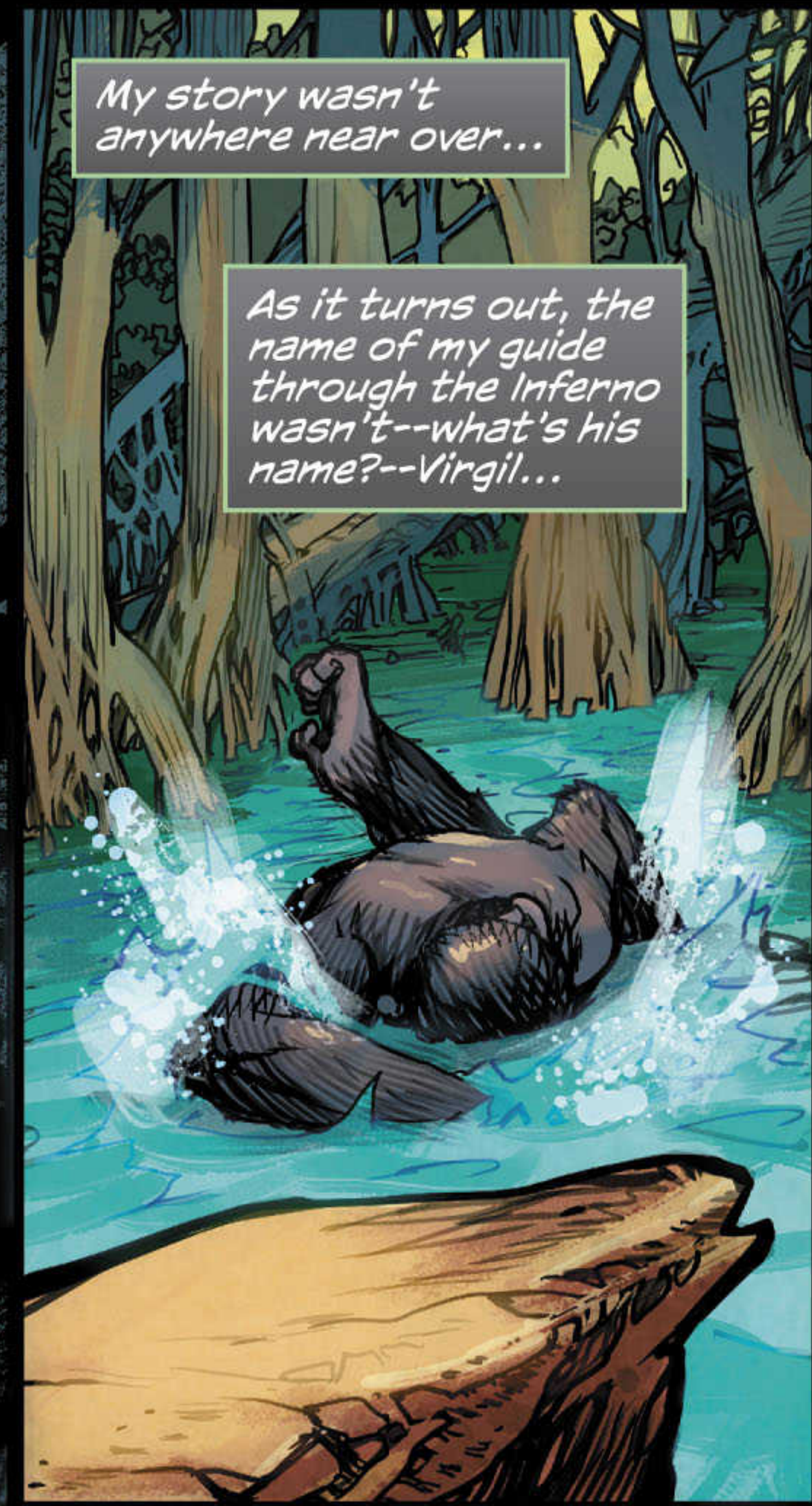
LET HIM PASS.



It opened itself up to me.

No matter what happened, they could never shut me behind those same bars again.

And that's when I knew.



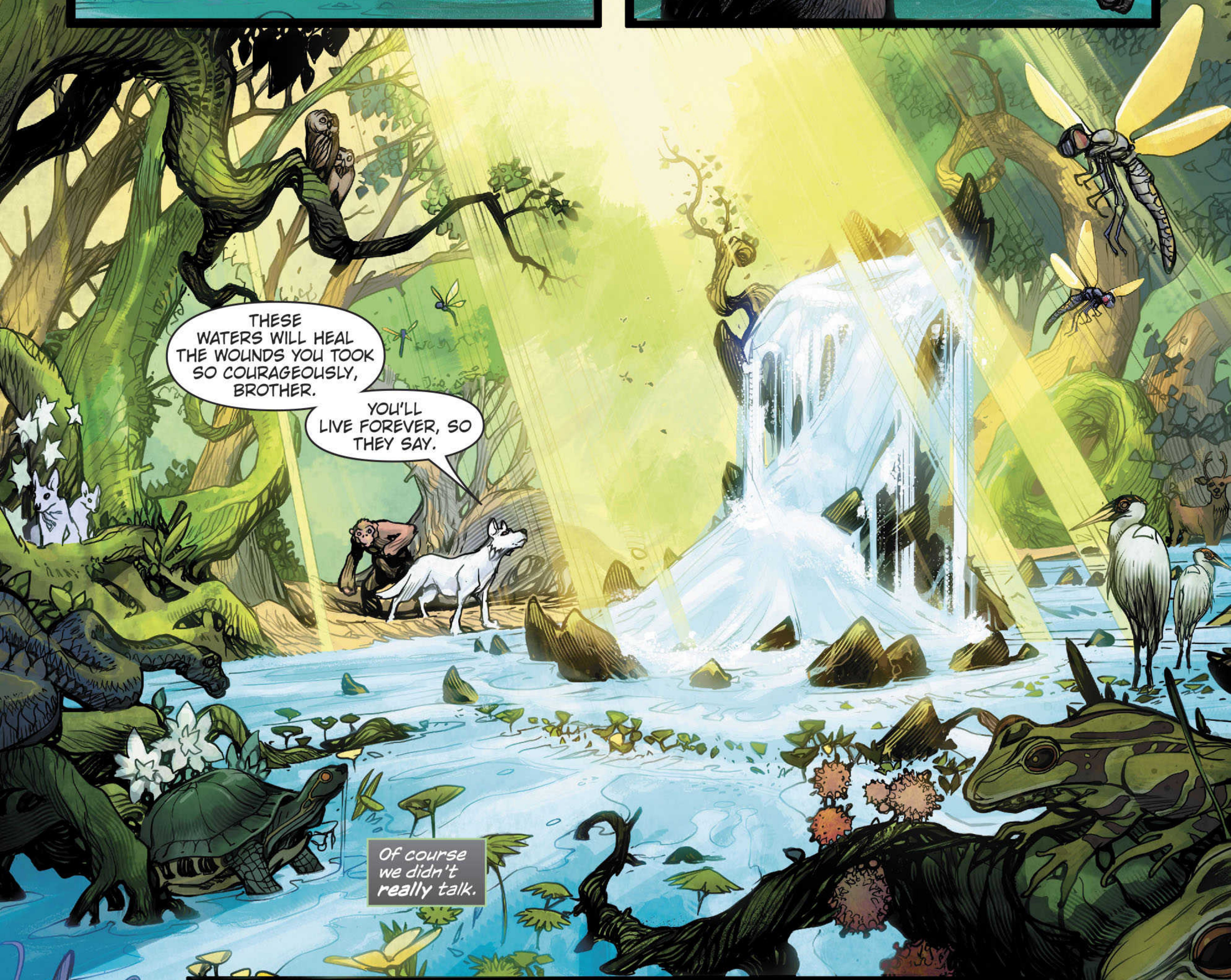
My story wasn't anywhere near over...

As it turns out, the name of my guide through the Inferno wasn't--what's his name?--Virgil...



...it was Rex.







My injuries disappeared.

Pain I'd ignored for years was gone.

And something else changed--

All at once, like lightning hitting a mirror, I was bright.

I saw for the first time how it all fit together.

And everywhere I looked there were clues, which led to evidence, which led to the simple meaning of it all!

Everywhere--perfect unfolding solutions to insoluble mysteries that had haunted my blunt ape brain for so long.

All of it made sense.

It could be interrogated, made to give up its secrets and its mysteries like a person--like music, unfurling before me...

Clues.

Evidence.

Everywhere cause and effect.

Karma.

The dirt I dug up sent all three of Fred's killers to the pen.

Two of them were put to death by the state, the third man was gutted like a catfish in the showers.

Did I feel bad? Not at all. What you learn, in detection, is that all cruelty belies the same sin--a lack of imagination. In other words...



...ANTI-MUSIC!!!

# SCREEEEEEE!!!

DARK KNIGHTS RISING: THE WILD HUNT:  
**RIDERS ON THE RAZOR**

SCOTT SNYDER, GRANT MORRISON,  
JAMES TYNION IV & JOSHUA WILLIAMSON  
**WRITERS**

HOWARD PORTER, JORGE JIMENEZ  
& DOUG MAHNKE WITH JAMIE MENDOZA  
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**LETTERS**

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**COVER**

REBECCA TAYLOR  
& EDDIE BERGANZA  
**CO-EDITORS**

DAVE  
WIELGOSZ  
**ASST. EDITOR**

BATMAN  
CREATED BY BOB KANE  
WITH BILL FINGER  
  
SUPERMAN CREATED BY  
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER  
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT  
WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.





**NOW.**  
**BLACKHAWK**  
**ISLAND.**

**KRA-  
KOW**

HURRY,  
BOBO! DARK  
ENERGY...

I KNOW!  
I'M GOING AS FAST  
AS I CAN!

AND...

WE'RE  
CONNECTED?

I THINK  
SO, WILL, BUT...BUT  
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...  
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING  
TO ME...FINDING THIS  
FREQUENCY...

I FEEL LIKE A  
DUMB APE AGAIN...LIKE  
DEVOLVING...

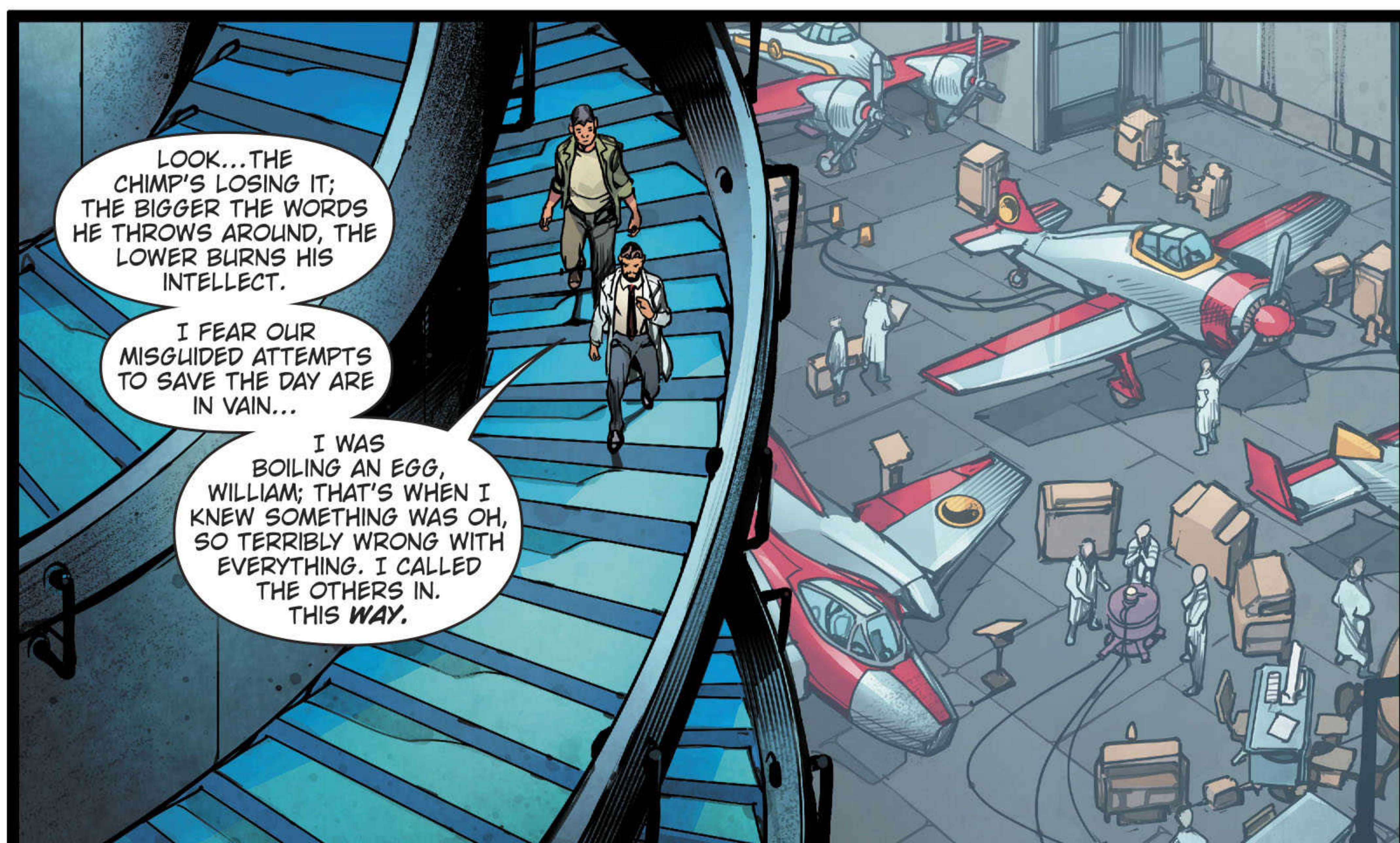
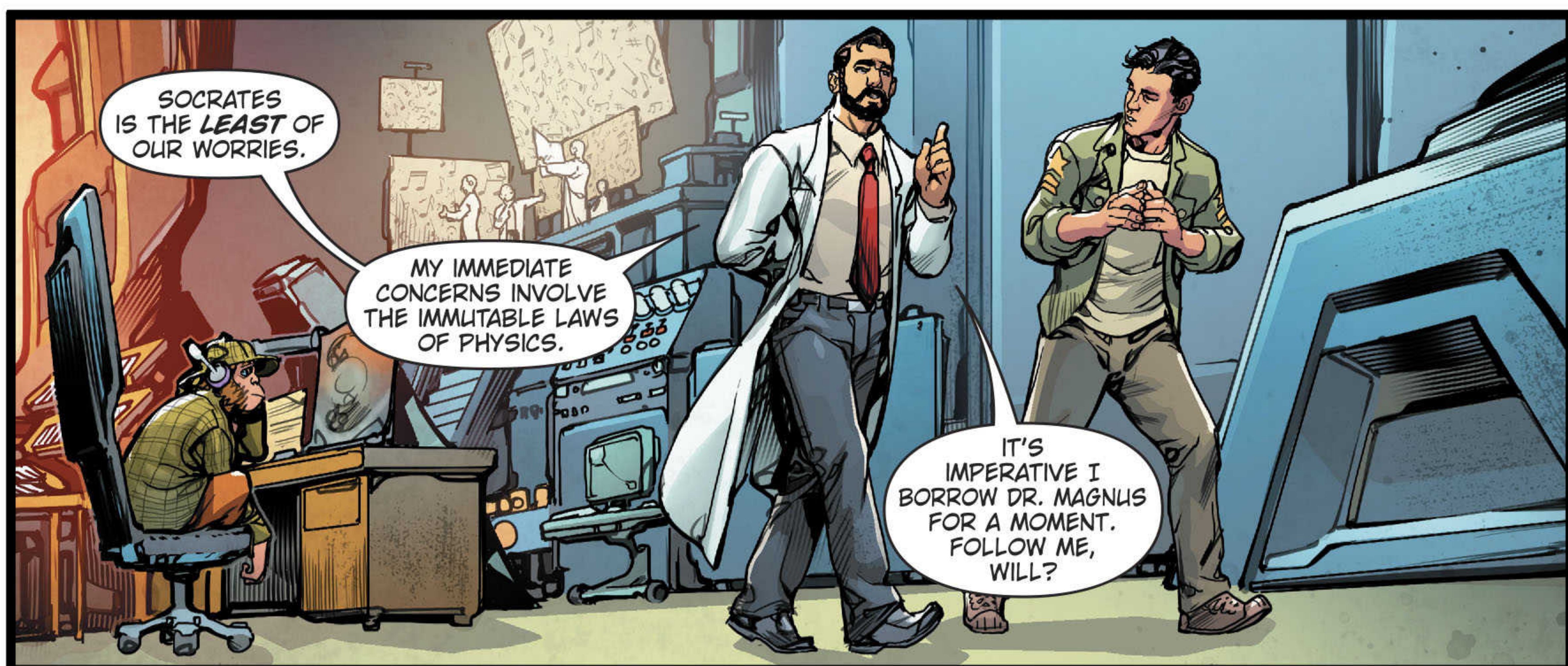
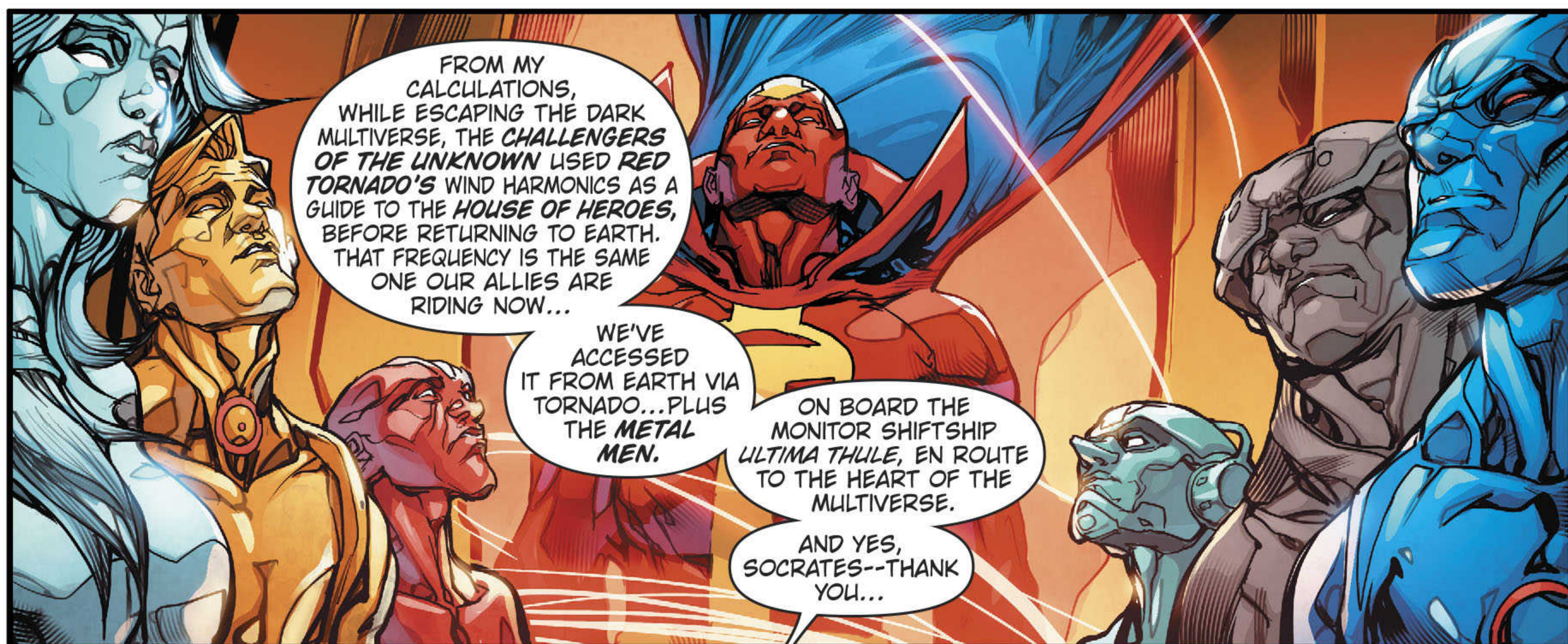
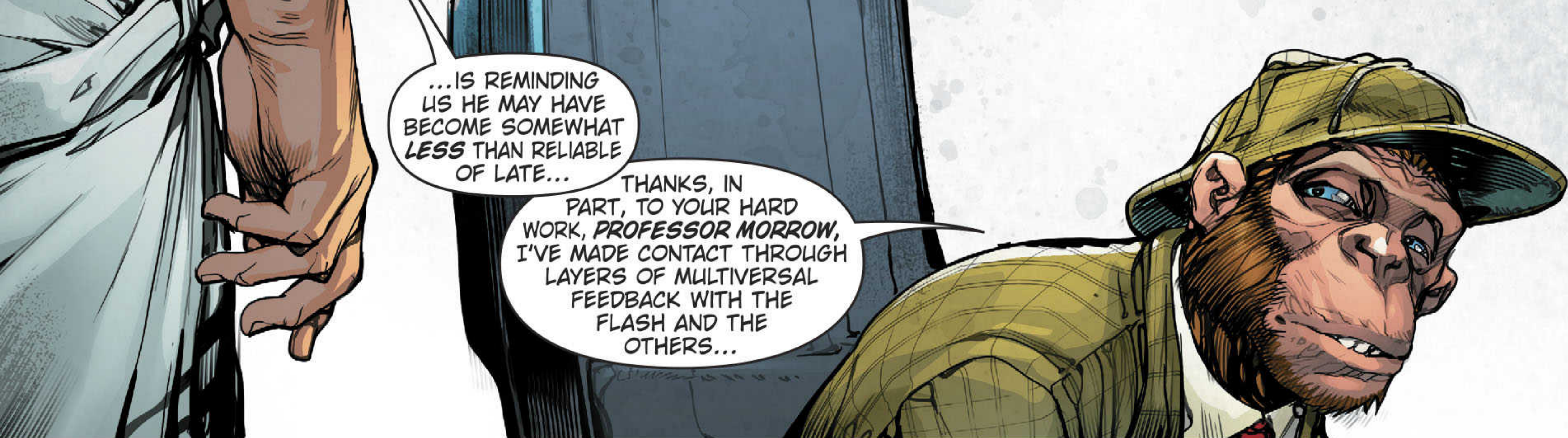
AND I CAN'T REMEMBER  
WHO SAID "THE UNEXAMINED  
LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING."

...SOCRATES.

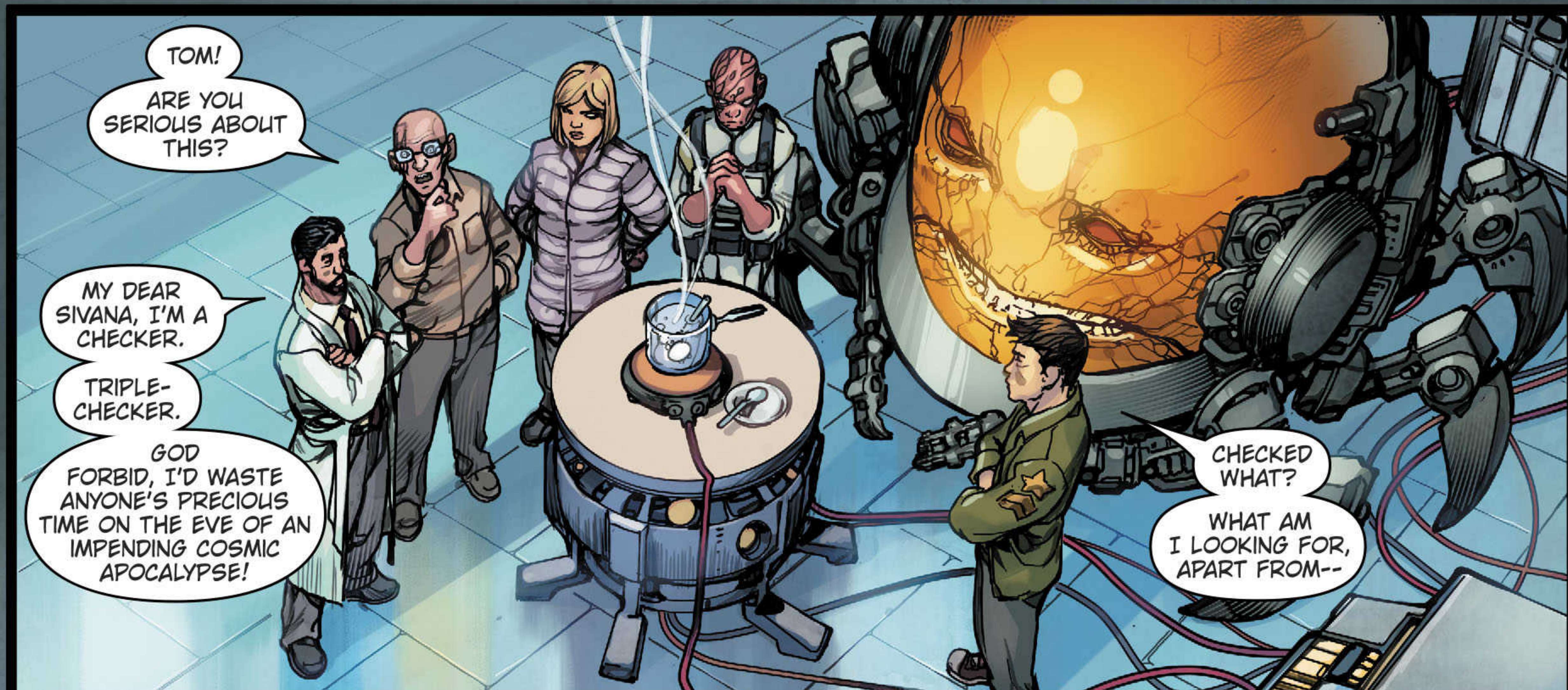
IN HIS OWN  
GUILLESS WAY,  
OUR SIMIAN COMPADRE,  
THIS IMMORTAL, SUPER-  
EVOLVED REPOSITORY OF  
EVERY KNOWN FACT, EVERY  
SCRAP OF RECORDED  
DATA...

THIS  
RESOURCE  
WE'RE RELYING  
ON--









TOM!  
ARE YOU  
SERIOUS ABOUT  
THIS?

MY DEAR  
SIVANA, I'M A  
CHECKER.

TRIPLE-  
CHECKER.

GOD  
FORBID, I'D WASTE  
ANYONE'S PRECIOUS  
TIME ON THE EVE OF AN  
IMPENDING COSMIC  
APOCALYPSE!

CHECKED  
WHAT?

WHAT AM  
I LOOKING FOR,  
APART FROM--



OH.

THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE--

THE  
BOILING POINT OF  
WATER IS NOW 106  
DEGREES...

YES.

WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED,  
IT'S CAUSING THE LAWS OF  
PHYSICS TO FALL LIKE DOMINOES.



THAT CAN'T BE  
GOOD.

YOU STILL  
WANT THIS  
EGG?

I WASN'T  
SURE IF IT WAS  
A DEMONSTRATION  
OR ACTUAL  
BREAKFAST.

NOT NOW,  
WILLIAM!

IT'S HARD-  
BOILED.

THE DAMN  
THING'S RUINED.

**KRA-KOOOOM**

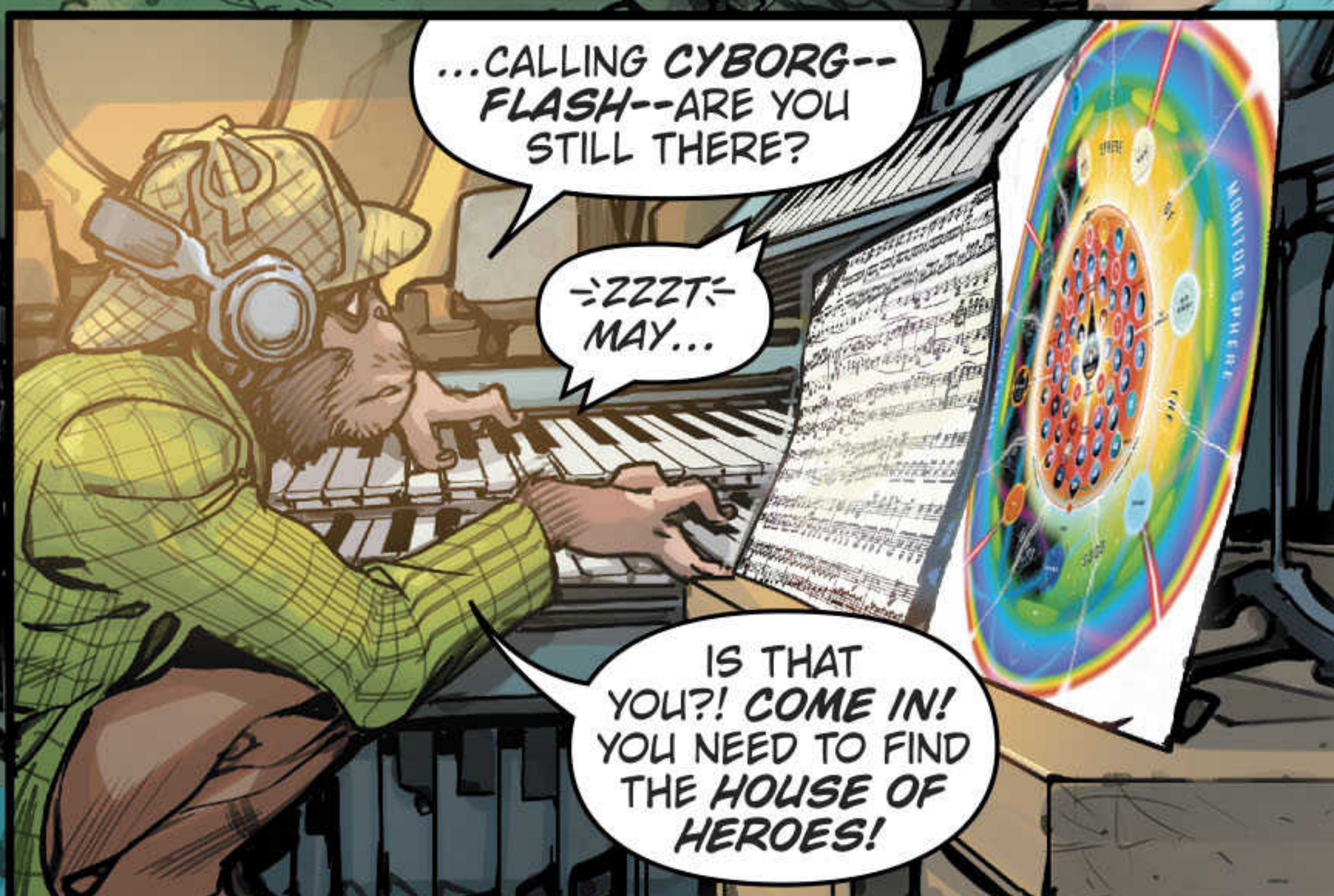
"HEAR THAT? THIS  
**BLACKHAWK ISLAND**  
WON'T DEFEND ITSELF  
WHEN THE SKY FALLS IN.

"WE'RE AT THE **LAST  
STAND** OF SCIENCE  
AND DISCOVERY.



THE  
ONLY QUESTION,  
DOCTORS...

...IS  
WHETHER WE WILL  
BE **HEROES...** OR  
**VILLAINS.**



...CALLING **CYBORG--  
FLASH--** ARE YOU  
STILL THERE?

=ZZZT=  
MAY...

IS THAT  
YOU?! **COME IN!**  
YOU NEED TO FIND  
THE **HOUSE OF  
HEROES!**





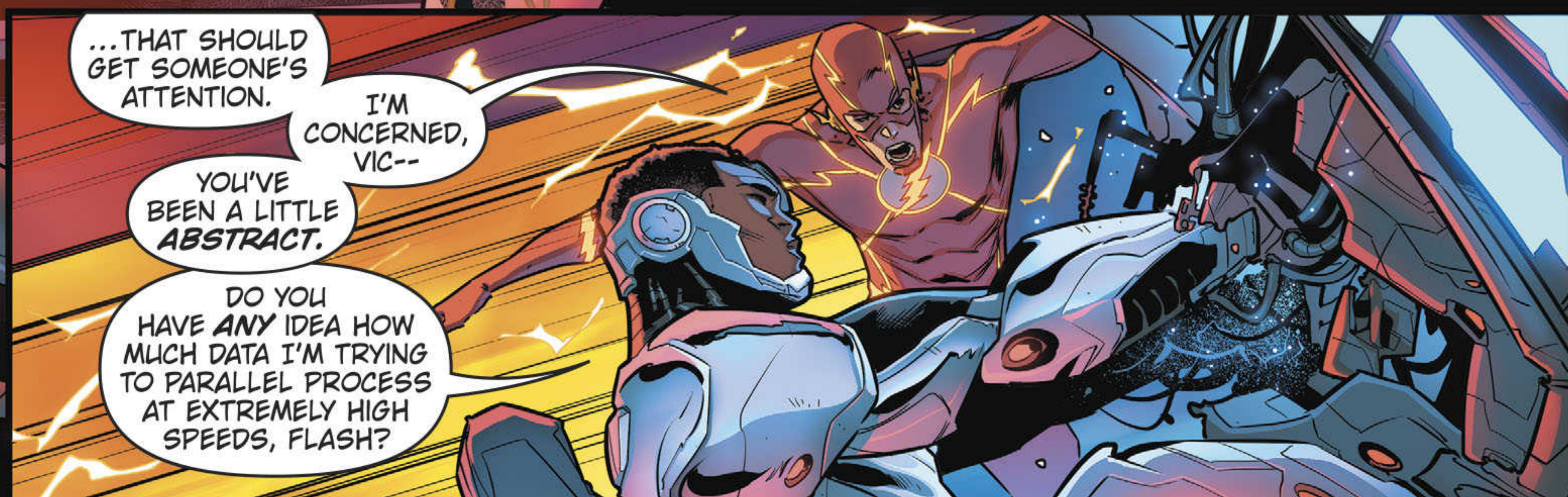
"YOU'RE OUR  
LAST HOPE!"

COME  
IN! MAYDAY!  
MAYDAY!

EVERYTHING  
EVERYWHERE IS GOING  
TO DIE.

FLASH  
CALLING THE HOUSE  
OF HEROES!

S!O!S!



...THAT SHOULD  
GET SOMEONE'S  
ATTENTION.

I'M  
CONCERNED,  
VIC--

YOU'VE  
BEEN A LITTLE  
**ABSTRACT.**

DO YOU  
HAVE *ANY* IDEA HOW  
MUCH DATA I'M TRYING  
TO PARALLEL PROCESS  
AT EXTREMELY HIGH  
SPEEDS, FLASH?



IT'S NOT SOMETHING I  
HAVE TO DEAL WITH  
EVERY DAY...

I HAVE A  
**MOTHER BOX**  
FOR A HEART--  
FROM NEW  
GENESIS.

I'M  
PART OF  
A CONSTANTLY  
UPGRADING  
SUPER-  
A.I.--

--WIRED INTO  
A LIVING MACHINE  
THAT RUNS ON  
**MUSIC.**



VIC.

OKAY, I  
GET IT.

FIRST-  
WORLD SUPERHERO  
PROBS.

I'LL KEEP  
WORKING ON THE  
MEMORY...



"...YOU GO SEE IF  
RAVEN HAS MADE  
FRIENDS WITH THIS  
THING!"

# THE ULTIMA THULE. THE MULTIVERSAL BLEED. THEN. NOW. TOMORROW?

--RAVEN.  
HOW'S IT--

FIFTY-TWO  
UNIVERSES MAKE UP  
THE MULTIVERSE--ALL  
OCCUPYING THE SAME SPACE,  
AT THE SAME TIME, SEPARATED  
ONLY BY FREQUENCY,  
VIBRATION.

I  
CAN'T FIND  
IT, DAMMIT! THE  
ULTIMA IS  
LOST!

GUIDED BY  
INSTINCT--TRYING  
TO RETURN TO LOTAN--  
THE SUPERJUDGE--  
THE LAST OF THE  
MONITORS--

PROTECTOR  
OF THE  
MULTIVERSE--

SEE NOW,  
HE SOUNDS LIKE  
THE GUY.

I DON'T  
THINK YOU NEED  
TO EXPERIENCE THE  
SHIP'S PAIN ANY  
LONGER,  
RAVEN.

THESE  
CONTROLS WERE  
DESIGNED FOR CREATURES  
WHO COULD ALTER THEIR  
SCALE AND PITCH AT WILL  
TO TRAVEL THROUGH  
THE MULTIVERSE--

I  
COULD DO  
THAT.

IN FACT,  
I'D LOVE  
TO SEE IF I COULD  
DO THAT.

VESSEL'S  
LIVING MUSIC-->HUFF--  
>HUFF-->EMPATHIC DRIVE--  
IT'S CONFUSED--  
AFRAID--

EVERYTHING'S  
OUT OF TUNE--TRYING,  
BUT--IT RELIES ON THE  
SONG-LINES TO BE  
PURE--BUT--

THE MUSICA  
UNIVERSALIS--  
BREAKING DOWN INTO  
NOISE AND FEEDBACK--  
INCOHERENT--

SO THE  
HOUSE OF HEROES  
WE'RE LOOKING FOR  
IS RIGHT HERE.

ALL WE  
HAVE TO DO IS  
TUNE IN.

TOO LATE,  
FLASH!

SOMETHING...  
SOMETHING IS  
BEARING DOWN ON US  
THROUGH THE  
NOISE!!!

ENORMOUS,  
DISCORDANT,  
FASTER THAN  
THOUGHT...



"THE WILD HUNT  
IS ON US!!!"



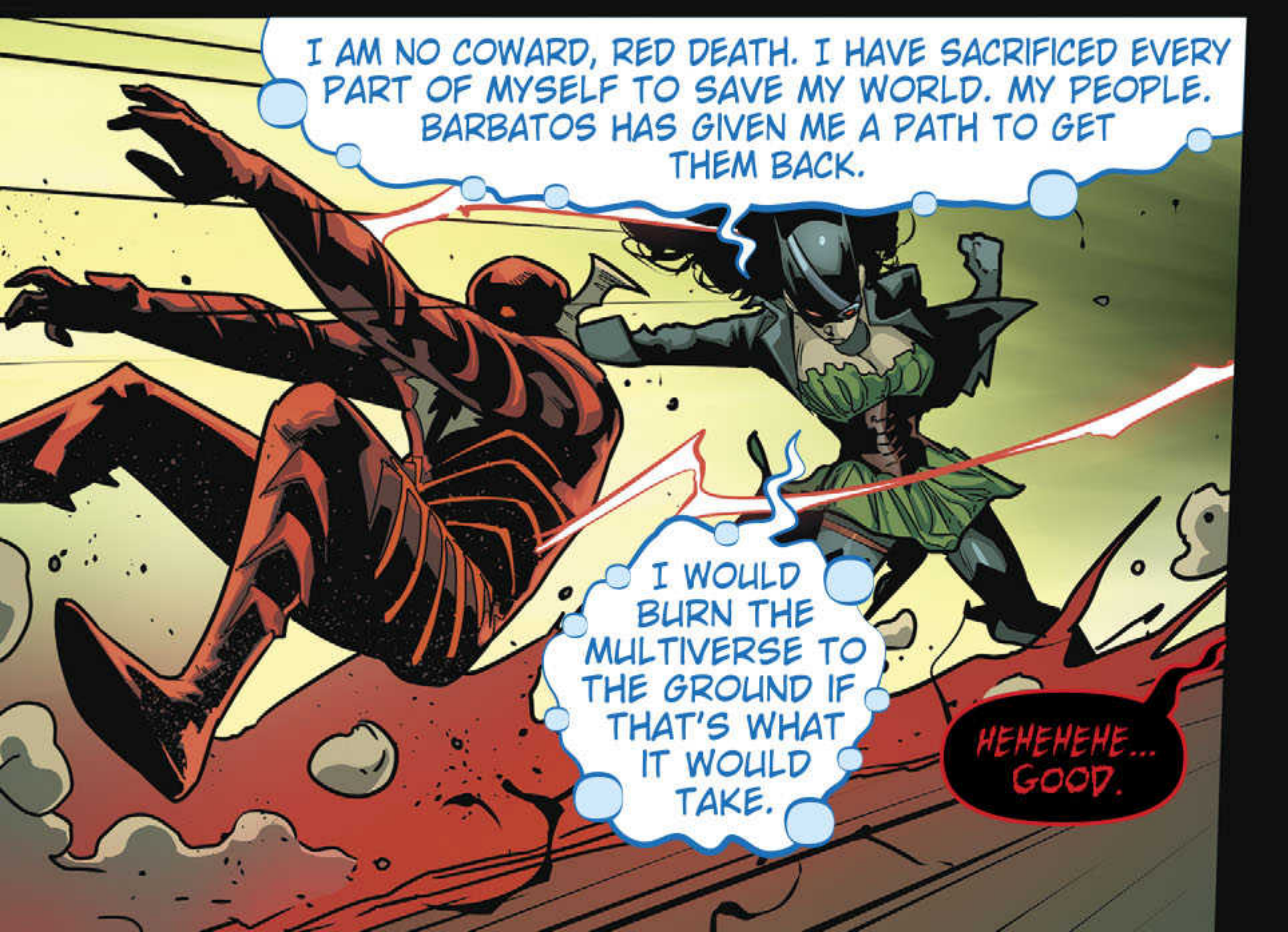
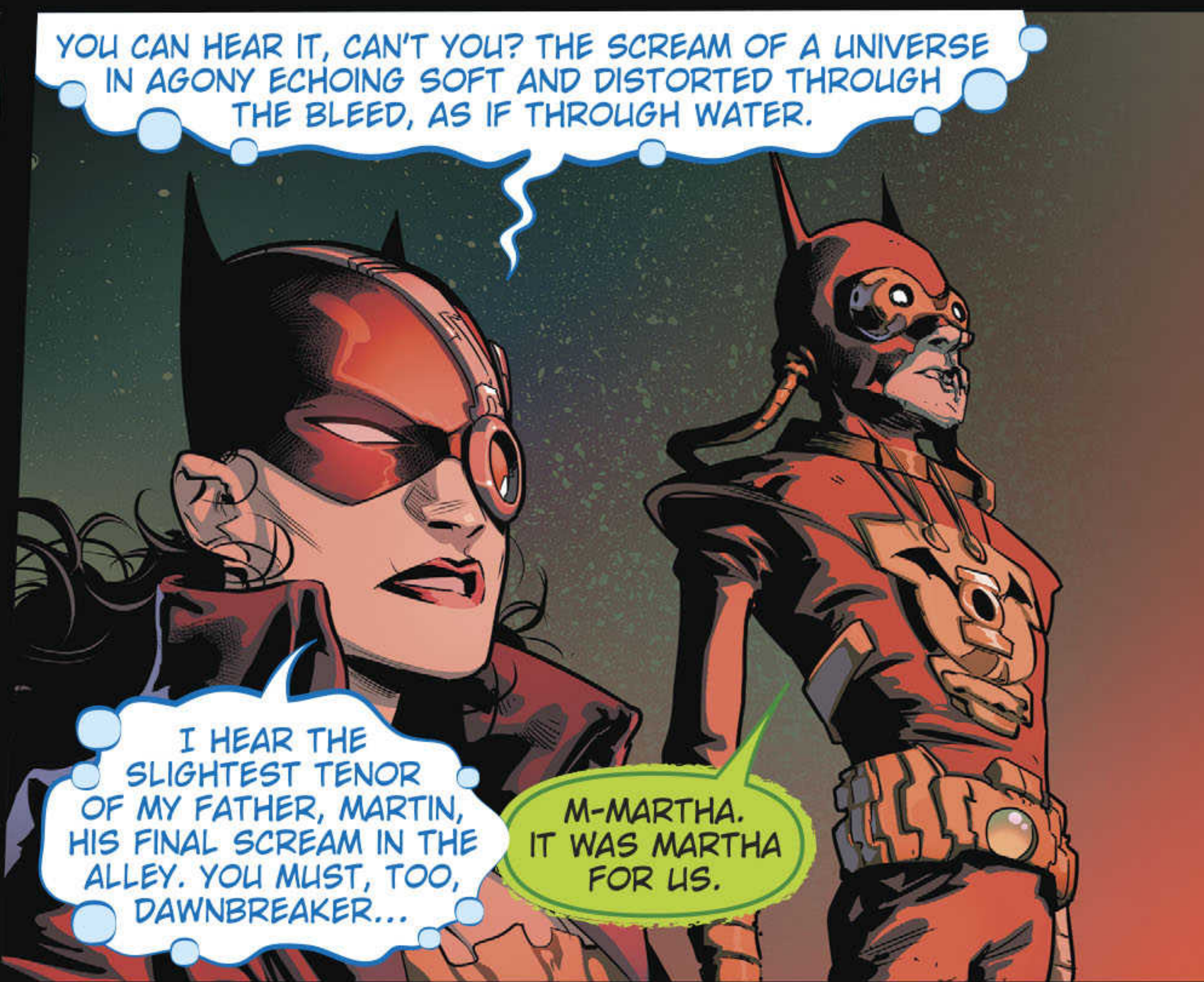
LOOK AT  
THEM. THEY THOUGHT  
THEY WERE FREE. THEY  
THOUGHT THEY COULD JUST  
WHISTLE A TUNE AND  
THE COSMOS WOULD  
GIVE THEM A RIDE  
TO VALHALLA.

THE ULTIMA  
THULE IS DUCKING  
AND WEAVING OUR  
BLASTS...

THE SONGSHIP'S TUNE  
IS WEAK. THE **CARRIER'S**  
DRUMBEAT CARRIES A DARKER  
AUTHORITY. LET'S MAKE THEM  
HEAR IT, KNIGHTS.

ARM THE  
WARHEADS.  
MORE  
SPEED!







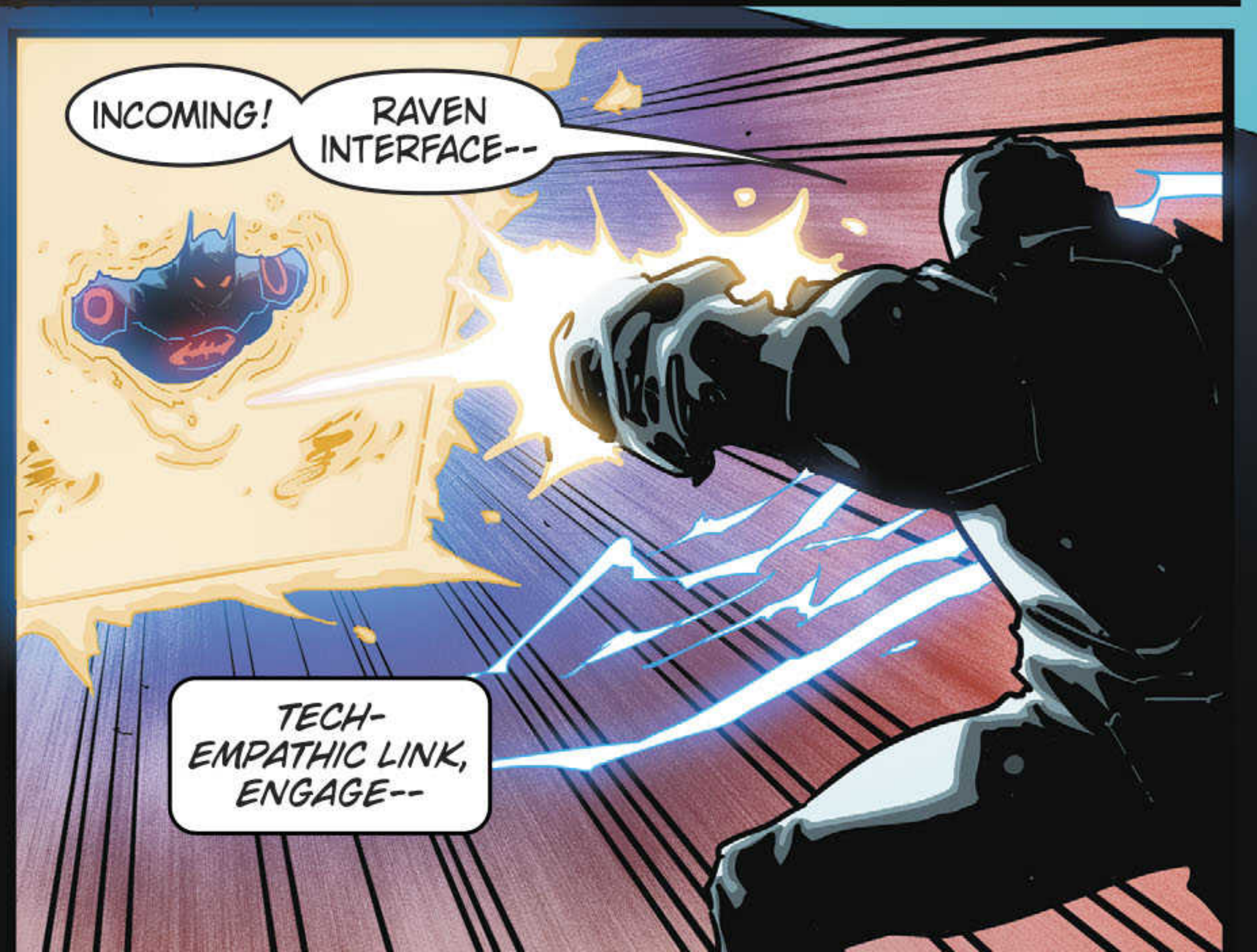
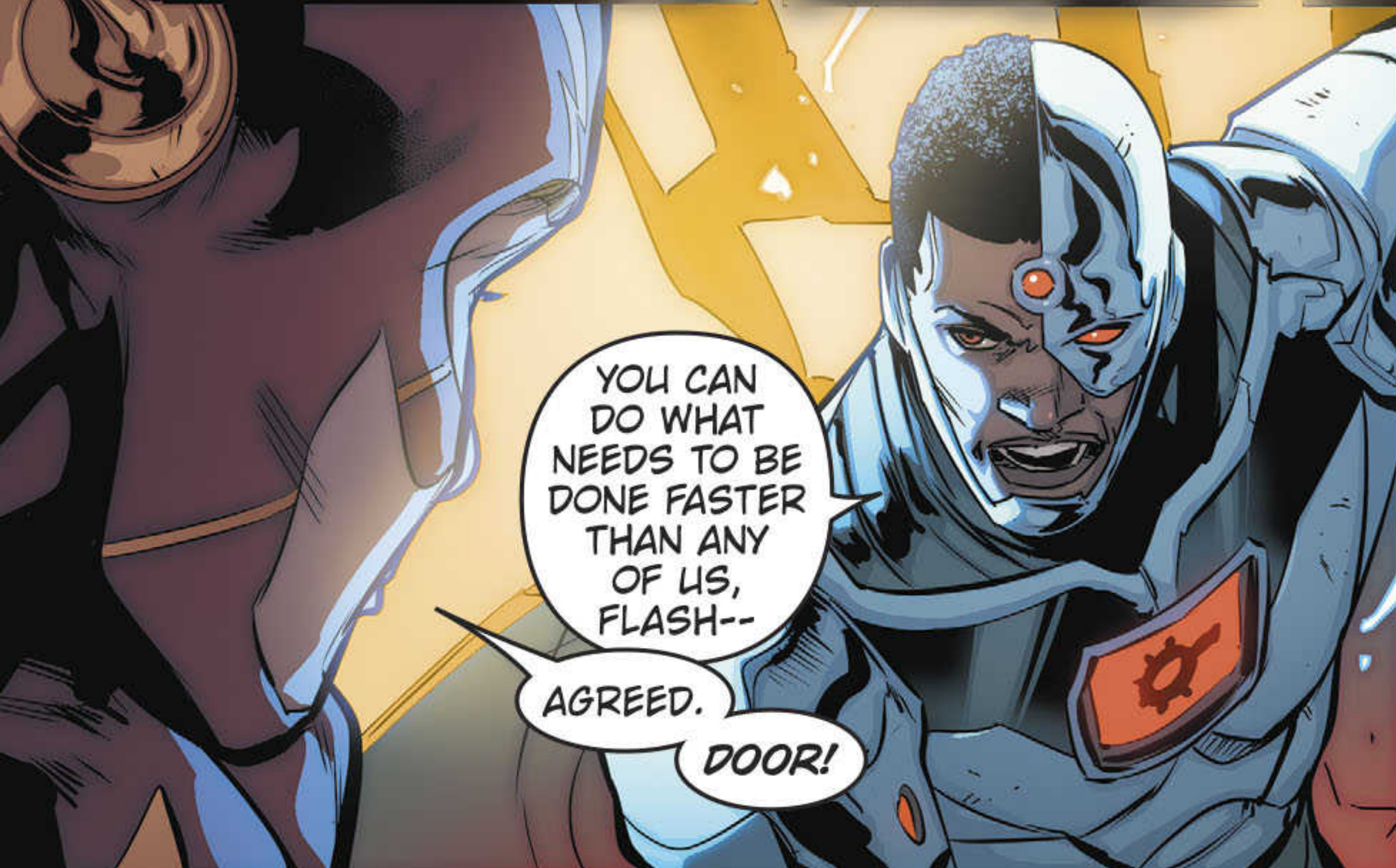
"...I'D HOLD ON TO SOMETHING IF I WERE YOU."

--ALL THESE WORLDS--DISEASED--INFECTED--

IF WE FAIL, IT'S DISASTER ON AN UNSPEAKABLE SCALE, FLASH!

I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA. THAT BABY UNIVERSE IS RICH WITH COSMIC POTENTIAL, PULLED STRAIGHT FROM THE **WORLD FORGE**. IF WE CAN FREE IT, IT'LL STOP THE CARRIER IN ITS TRACKS.

AND ALL THAT POSITIVE ENERGY MIGHT SET THE MULTIVERSE BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK.



TECH-EMPATHIC LINK, ENGAGE--





YOU!

THE  
GOTH!

WITH DARKEST  
BLACK, I CHOKE THE  
LIGHT! NO BRIGHTEST  
DAY ESCAPES MY  
SIGHT!

INITIATING  
BLACKOUT!

MY DAD'S  
A DEMON.

THAT  
DOESN'T MAKE  
ME A GOTH.

I LIKE  
ALL KINDS OF  
MUSIC.

SO  
MAKE YOUR DARKEST  
CONSTRUCTS, LITTLE  
"BRUCE"...



...YOU  
CAN'T SCARE  
A DAUGHTER OF  
HELL.



THERE.

TELEPORT  
ALL YOU WANT,  
RACHEL...

...SOON  
YOU'LL RUN OUT  
OF PLACES TO  
HIDE!

UH!

NOT  
HIDING...





...JUST BUYING ENOUGH TIME.

WHAT DID SHE--

SHE'S TAKEN CONTROL OF YOUR CONSTRUCTS, YOU MORON!

RELEASE THE HOUNDS.

VIC! I DID IT! I'M IN THE CARRIER!

HOW SOON BEFORE RED DEATH'S ON MY TAIL?

SHOULD BE FUN.

BUSY HERE, FLASH!

THAT WAS BEFORE I WAS PLUGGED INTO THE MULTIVERSE!

I KILLED ONE JUST LIKE YOU.

TOOK HIS TECHNOLOGY-- PUT IT TO USE.

UH!

SYSTEM OVERLOAD-- BACKUP--

PURGE!



GET AWAY FROM ME!

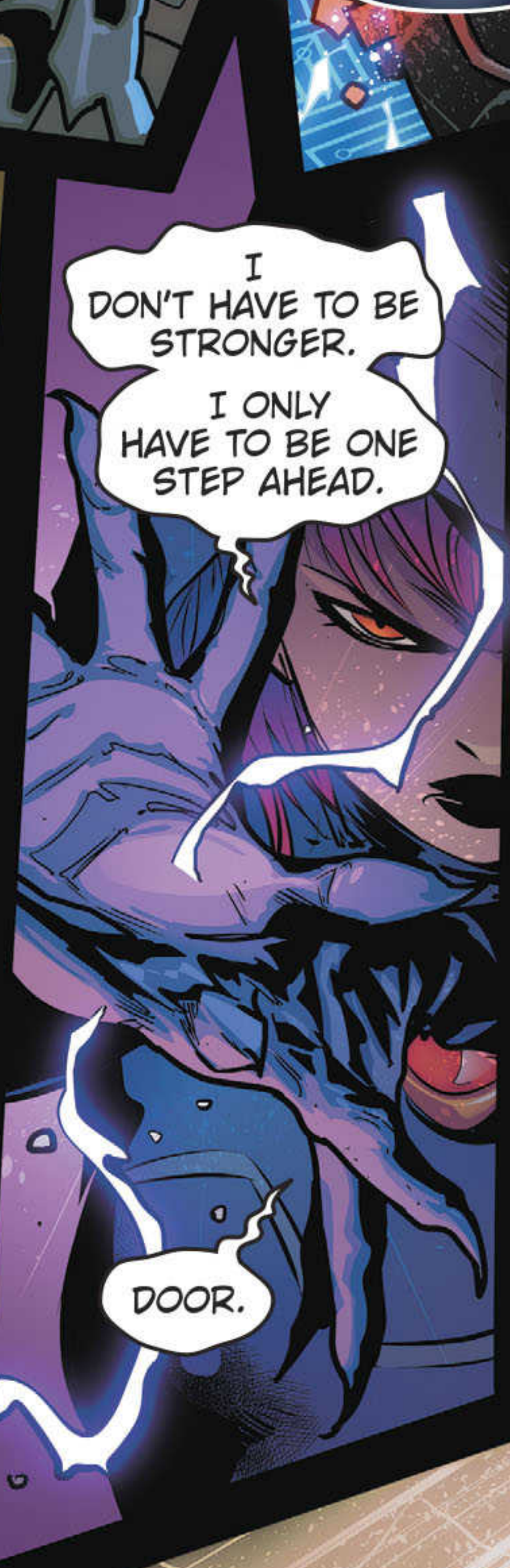
...MOM! DAD!

I MADE YOU!



WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO, LITTLE GIRL?

YOU THINK YOU'RE STRONGER THAN ME?



I DON'T HAVE TO BE STRONGER.

I ONLY HAVE TO BE ONE STEP AHEAD.

DOOR.



?

UNNH!

FLASH... TELL US YOU'VE FOUND IT!



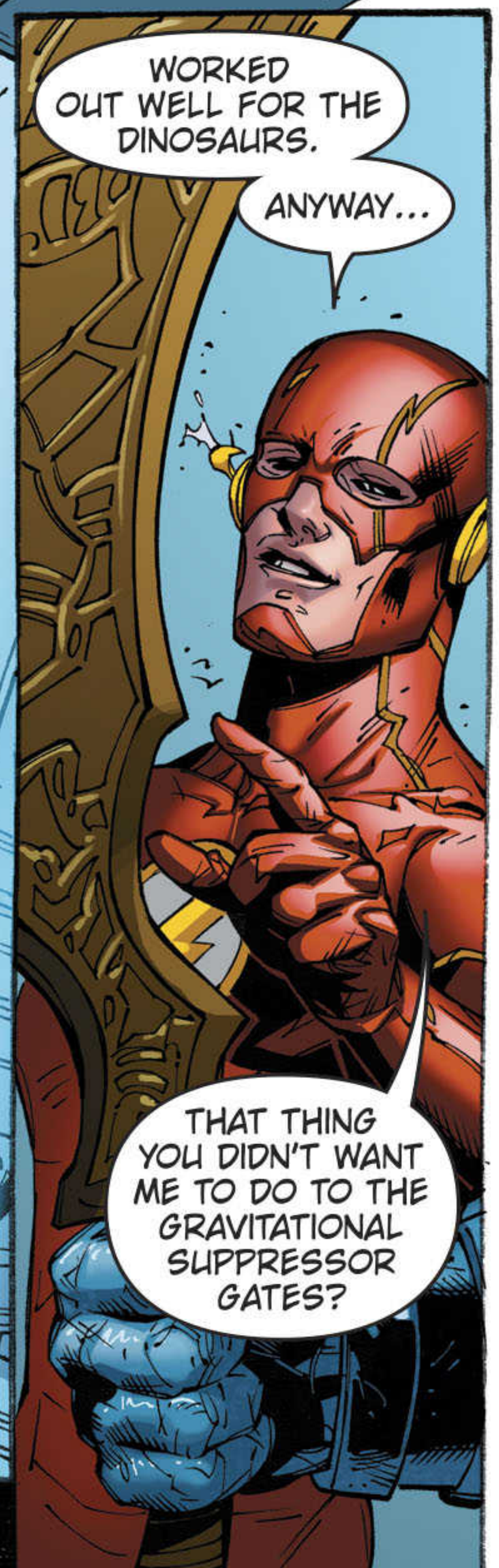


BABY UNIVERSE, DEAD AHEAD! I MEAN, NOT "DEAD," BUT--

JUST HURRY!

--I SEE YOU, TOO. MERCILESS, RIGHT?

BIG. TOUGH. SLOW.



WORKED OUT WELL FOR THE DINOSAURS.

ANYWAY...

THAT THING YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO DO TO THE GRAVITATIONAL SUPPRESSOR GATES?



WHAT DID YOU--

YOU BLINKED.



YOU FOOL! DO YOU REALIZE THE ENERGY IT TAKES TO HOLD A UNIVERSE IN INFANCY? WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN IT'S UNLEASHED?!

OF COURSE I DO. I'M A *SUPERHERO* SCIENTIST.



NOT SO FAST.

RED DEATH. PREDICTABLY LATE.



MY...MY GOD.

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?

YOU JUST GOT HIT BY THE PURE POSITIVE ENERGY OF CREATION. IT JUST SHIFTED YOUR POLARITY. **REVERSED** YOU...

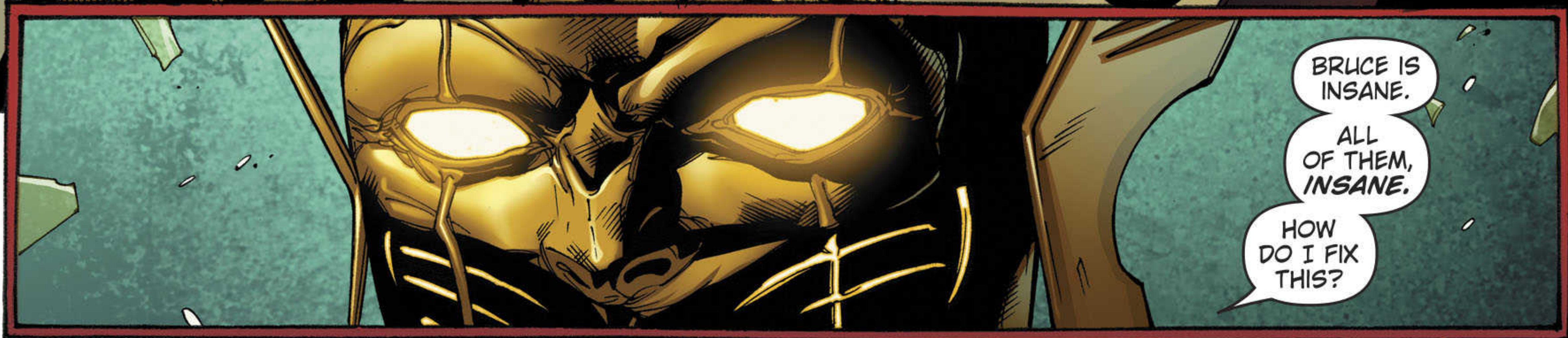




BARRY--  
I'M **BARRY**  
ALLEN--

BRUCE--  
HE'S GONE.  
OH GOD--

THE  
SCREAMING  
RAGE--



BRUCE IS  
INSANE.

ALL  
OF THEM,  
**INSANE.**

HOW  
DO I FIX  
THIS?



WE'RE STANDING AT THE END  
OF INFINITY DOING OUR BEST  
TO PROVE THAT IT STILL  
**MEANS** SOMETHING TO  
BE A HERO.

WE CAN  
START RIGHT  
HERE IN THIS  
ROOM.



LET'S SEE WHAT  
**FLASH FACTS** SOUND  
LIKE IN **STEREO.**





THE  
ULTIMA THULE  
IS HIT!

RAVEN!

LOOK  
OUT!

I DON'T  
NEED MY RING  
FOR YOU!

COME ON!  
WE NEED TO GET  
BACK TO THE THULE!  
WE SLOWED THEM  
DOWN, WE  
CAN--

NO, THEY'LL  
JUST CAPTURE THE  
UNIVERSE AGAIN. TURN  
IT DARK... SOMEONE HAS  
TO STAY, KEEP IT EXPANDING  
UNTIL IT'S TOO BIG TO  
RECAPTURE!

"WE'RE TOO IN TUNE WITH  
THE MULTIVERSE TO BE NEAR  
THAT KIND OF ENERGY!  
YOU'LL DIE, BARRY..."

"THE CARRIER IS CHARGED WITH THE  
ENERGY OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE, IT'S  
SCARRING EVERY WORLD IT TOUCHES,  
PULLING GOODNESS INTO HORROR.

"WHEN THE WORLD ORRERY  
FALLS, EVERY BATMAN IN  
THE MULTIVERSE WILL JOIN  
THEIR RANKS. THE  
INFECTION WILL SPREAD.

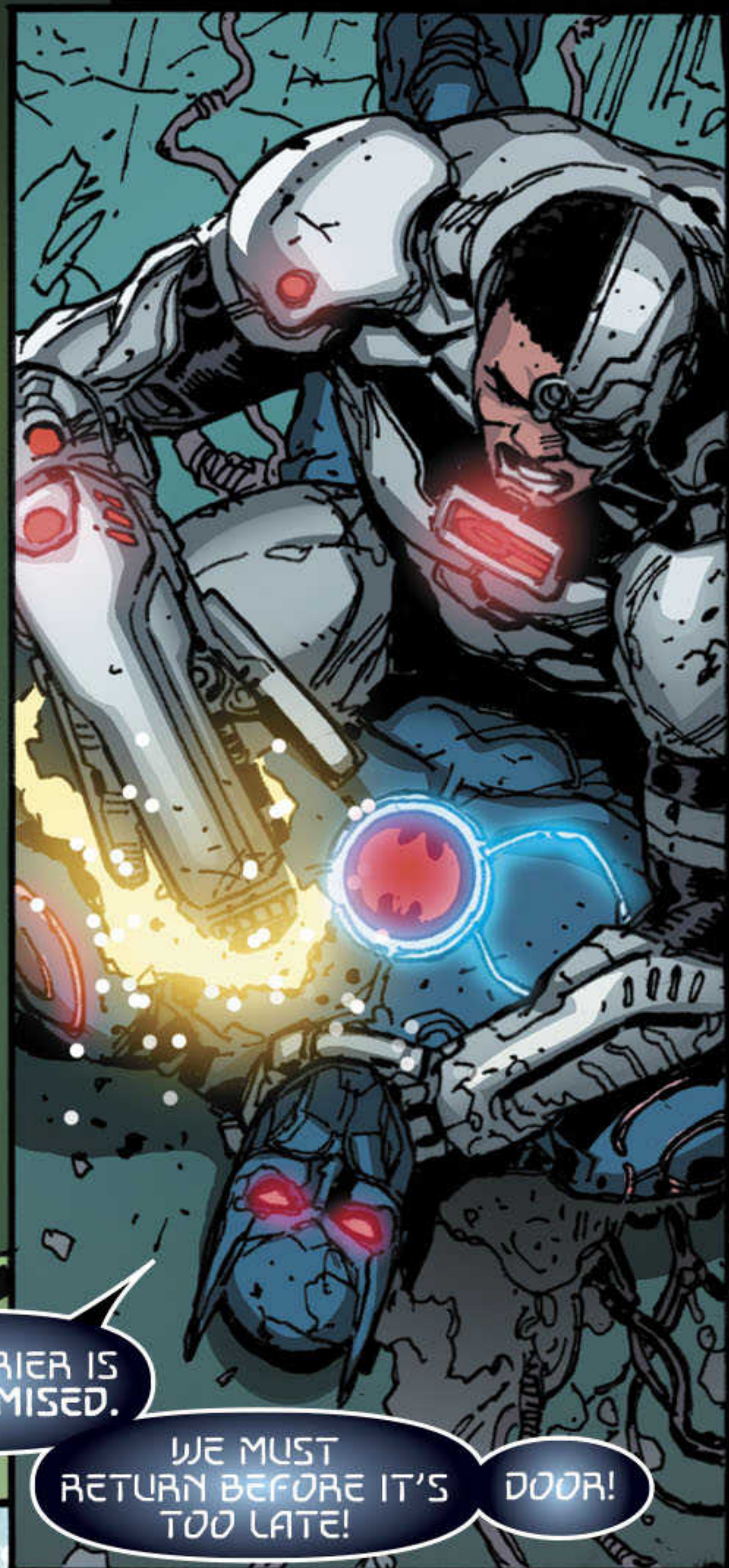
"THERE WILL BE NO  
MORE HEROES. IT HAS  
TO BE THIS WAY..."





I'LL TAKE MY TIME WITH YOU.

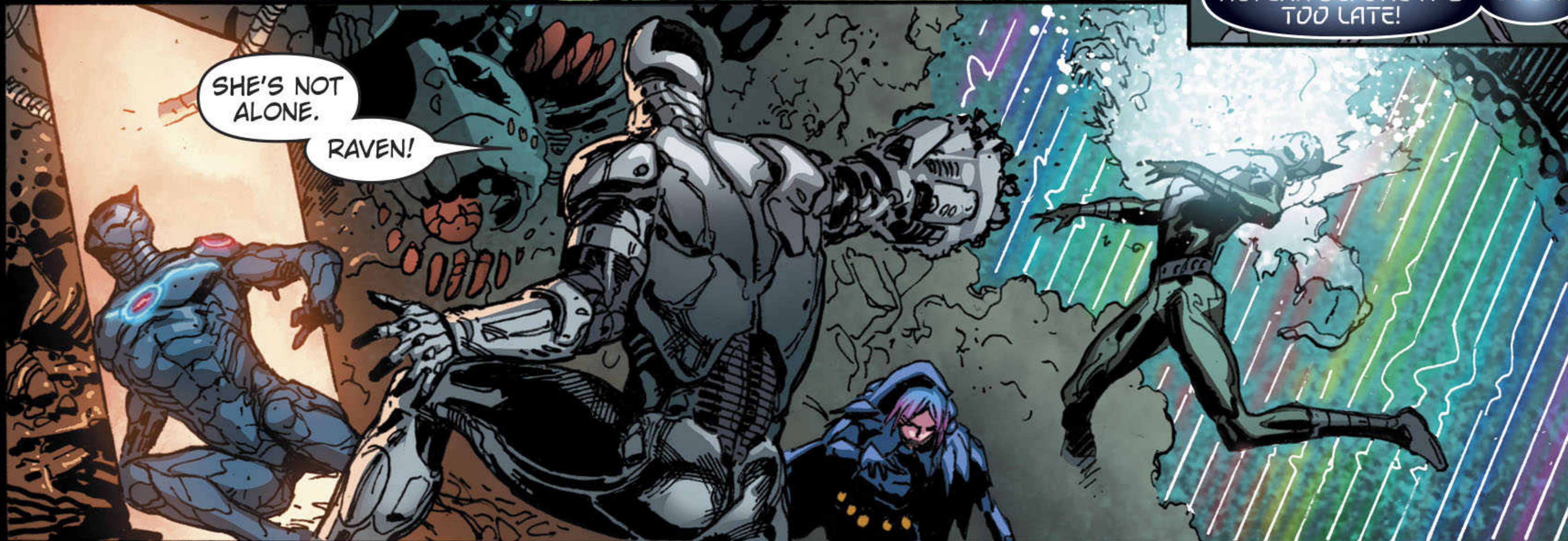
YOU'LL SPEND ETERNITY SCREAMING IN THE VOID, ALONE.



THE CARRIER IS COMPROMISED.

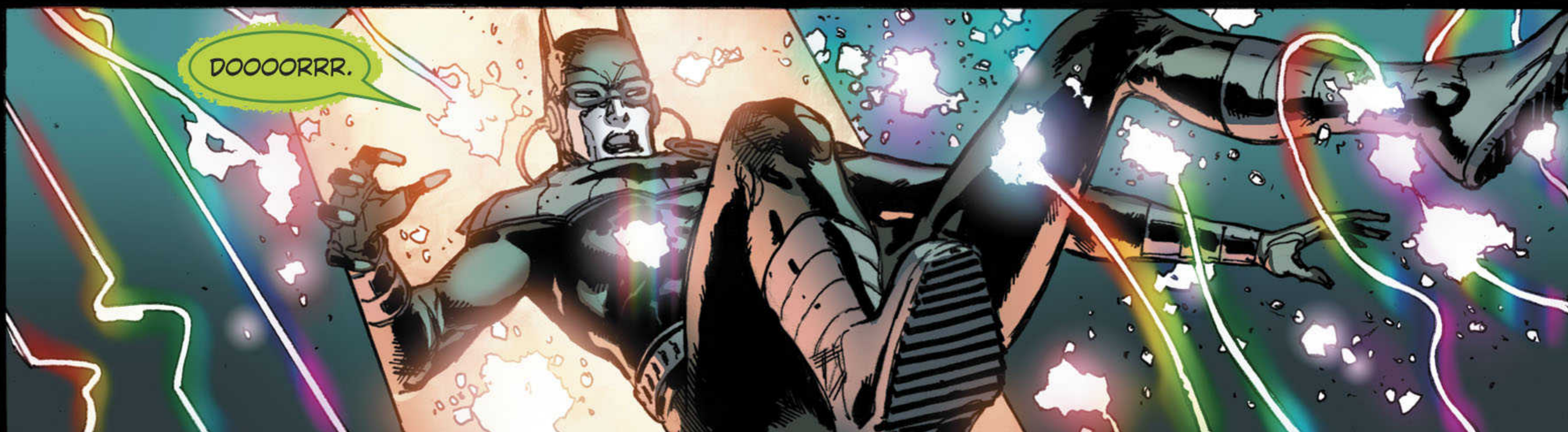
WE MUST RETURN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

DOOR!



SHE'S NOT ALONE.

RAVEN!



DOOOORRR.



YOU!

THERE'S ALWAYS A SACRIFICE, FLASH.

GO!

GO, BARRY!



...  
DOOR.





I DON'T UNDERSTAND... I THOUGHT WE WERE WINNING.

THE MUSIC'S JUST NOISE.

I CAN'T--

THEY DID SOMETHING TO US. THE THULE'S NOT RESPONSIVE.



RED DEATH!

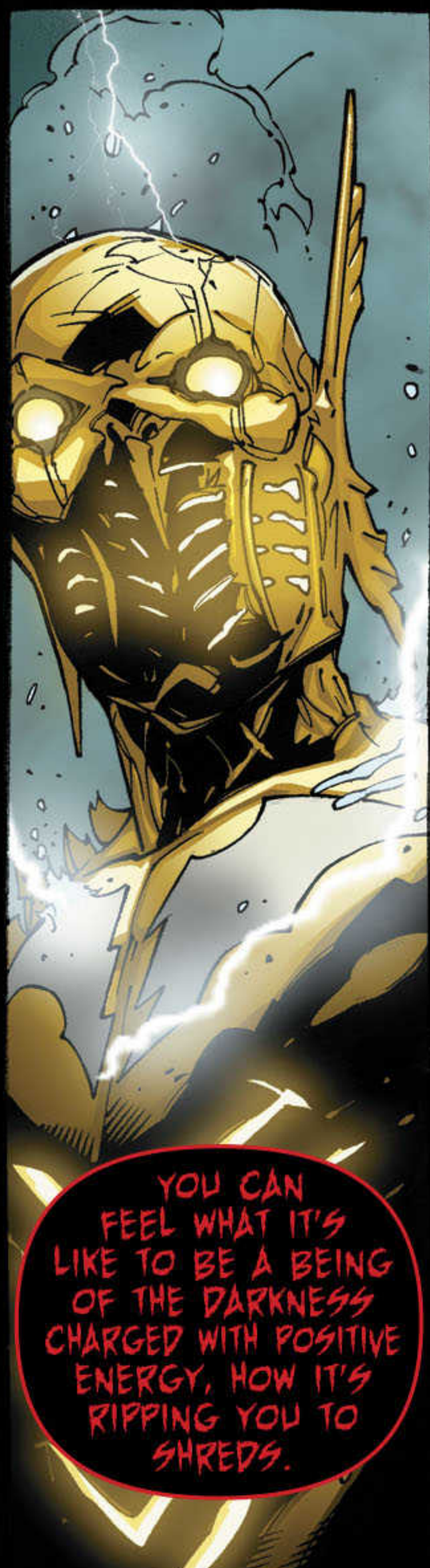
WELL DONE, TRAITOR.

YOU TOO PLAYED YOUR PART. YOU GAVE THEM ONE LAST TASTE OF HOPE.



YOU REALIZE OF COURSE, I EXPECTED THIS **WEAKNESS** FROM YOU.

YOU WERE ONLY EVER REALLY **HALF** A BATMAN. SO YOU ONLY KNEW **HALF** THE PLAN.



YOU CAN FEEL WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A BEING OF THE DARKNESS CHARGED WITH POSITIVE ENERGY, HOW IT'S RIPPING YOU TO SHREDS.



EVERY MISSILE LOBBED AT THE ULTIMA THULE CARRIED A BABY UNIVERSE HANDPICKED BY BARBATOS.

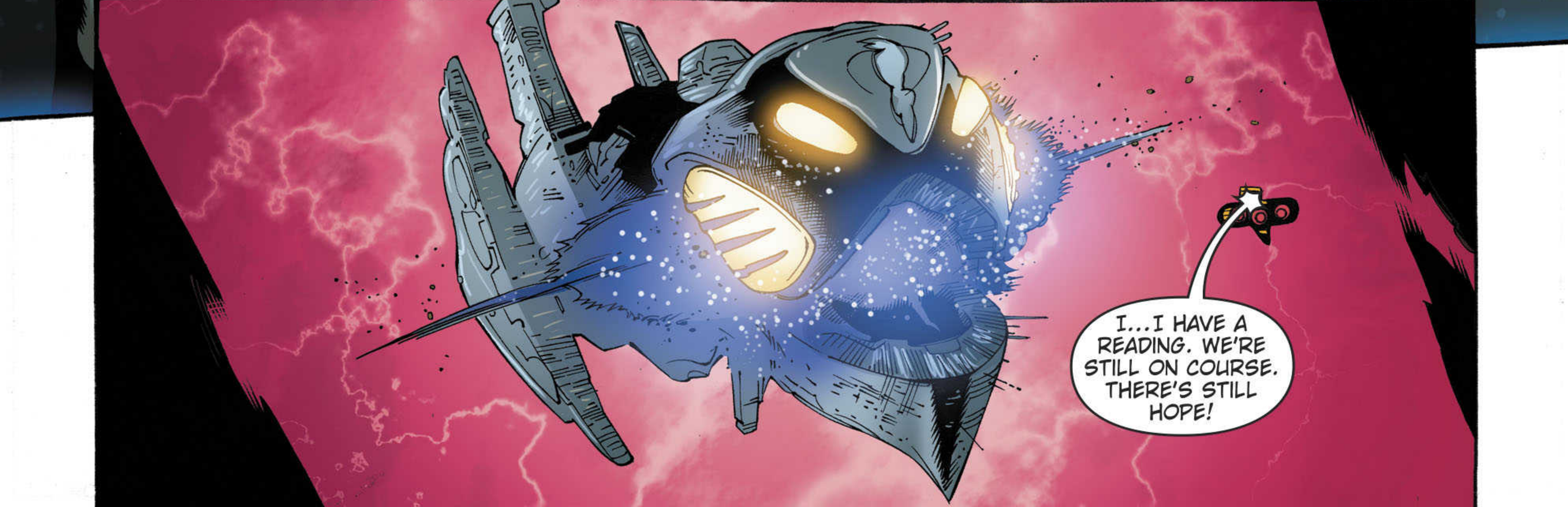
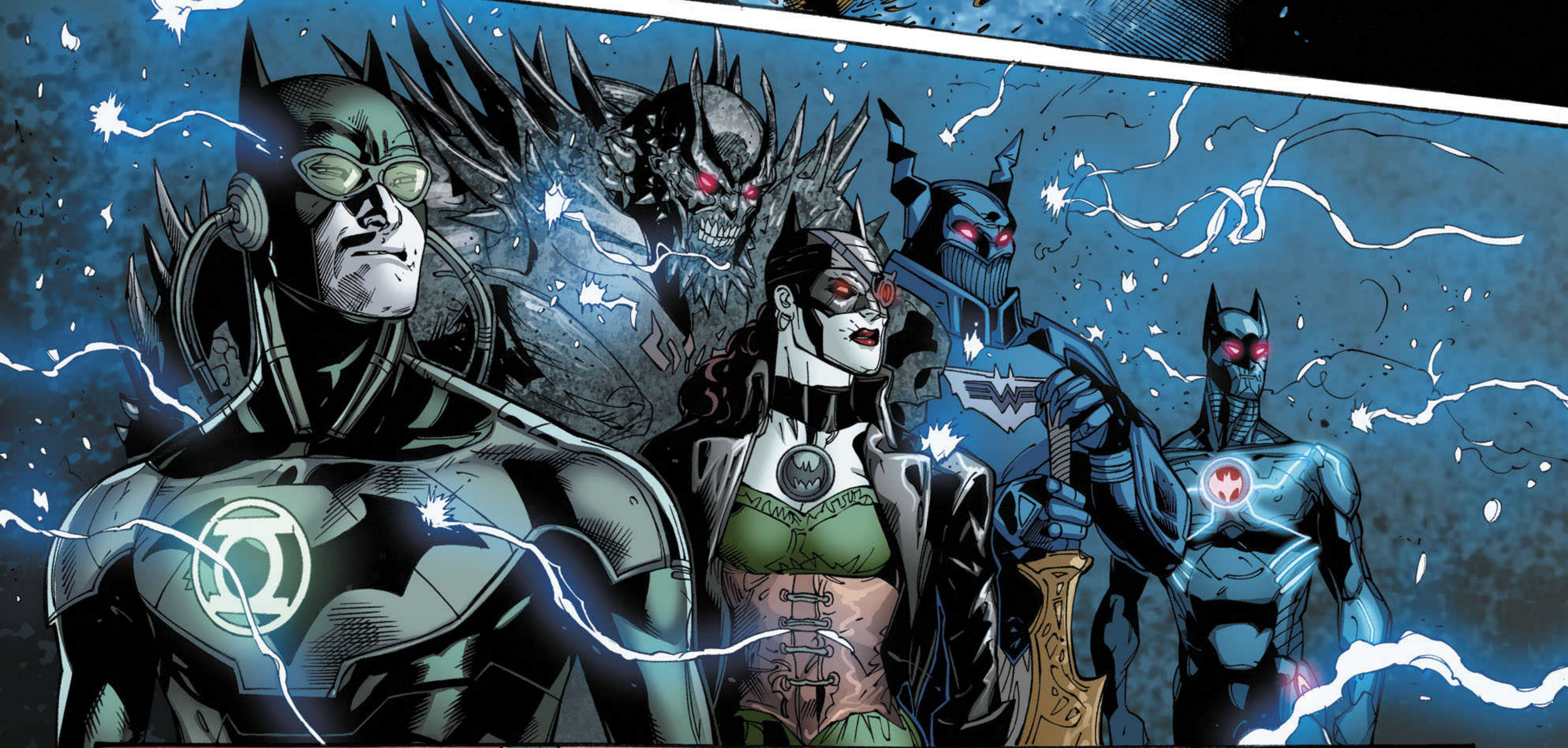


**DARK BABY UNIVERSES.**

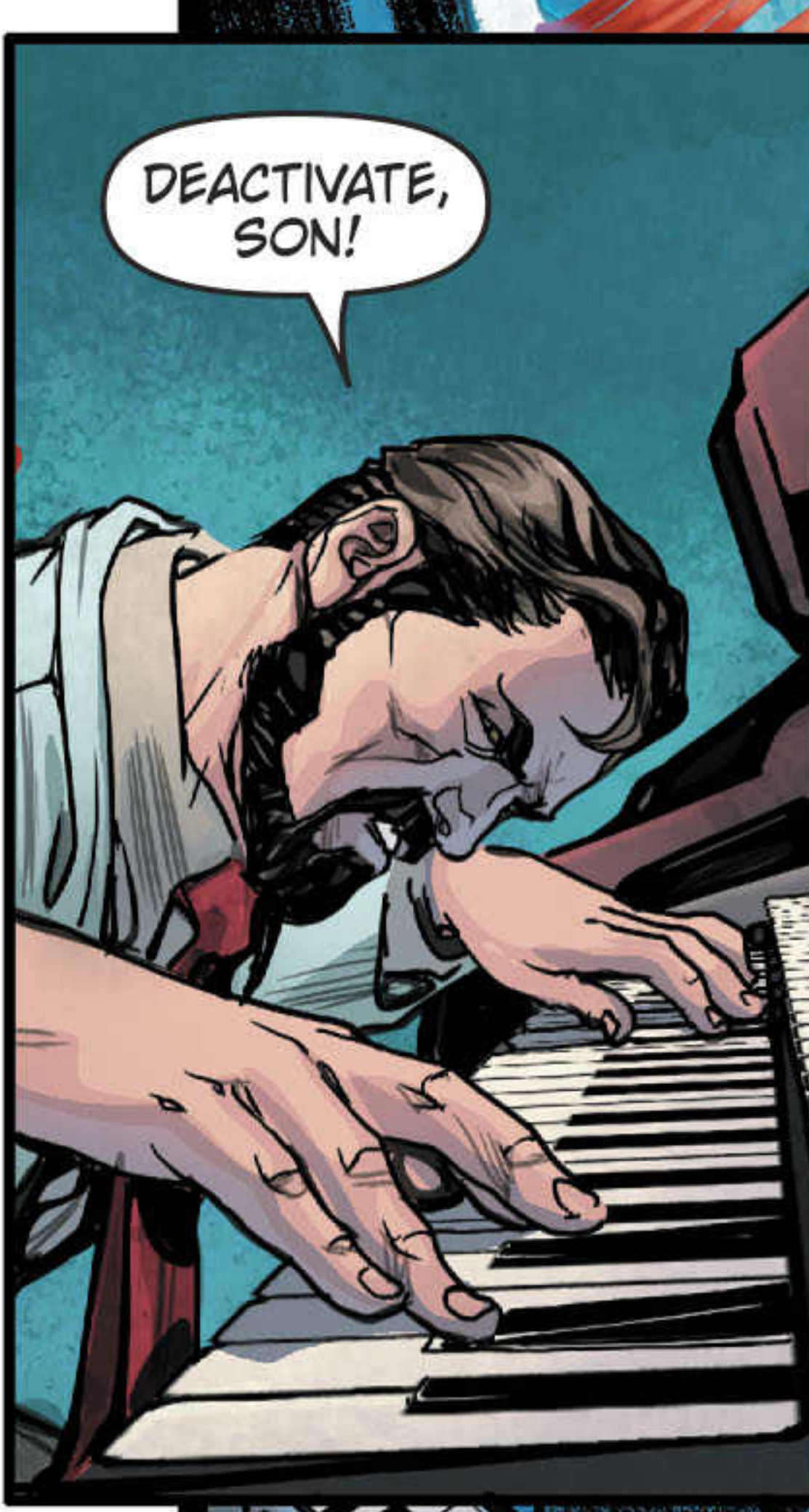
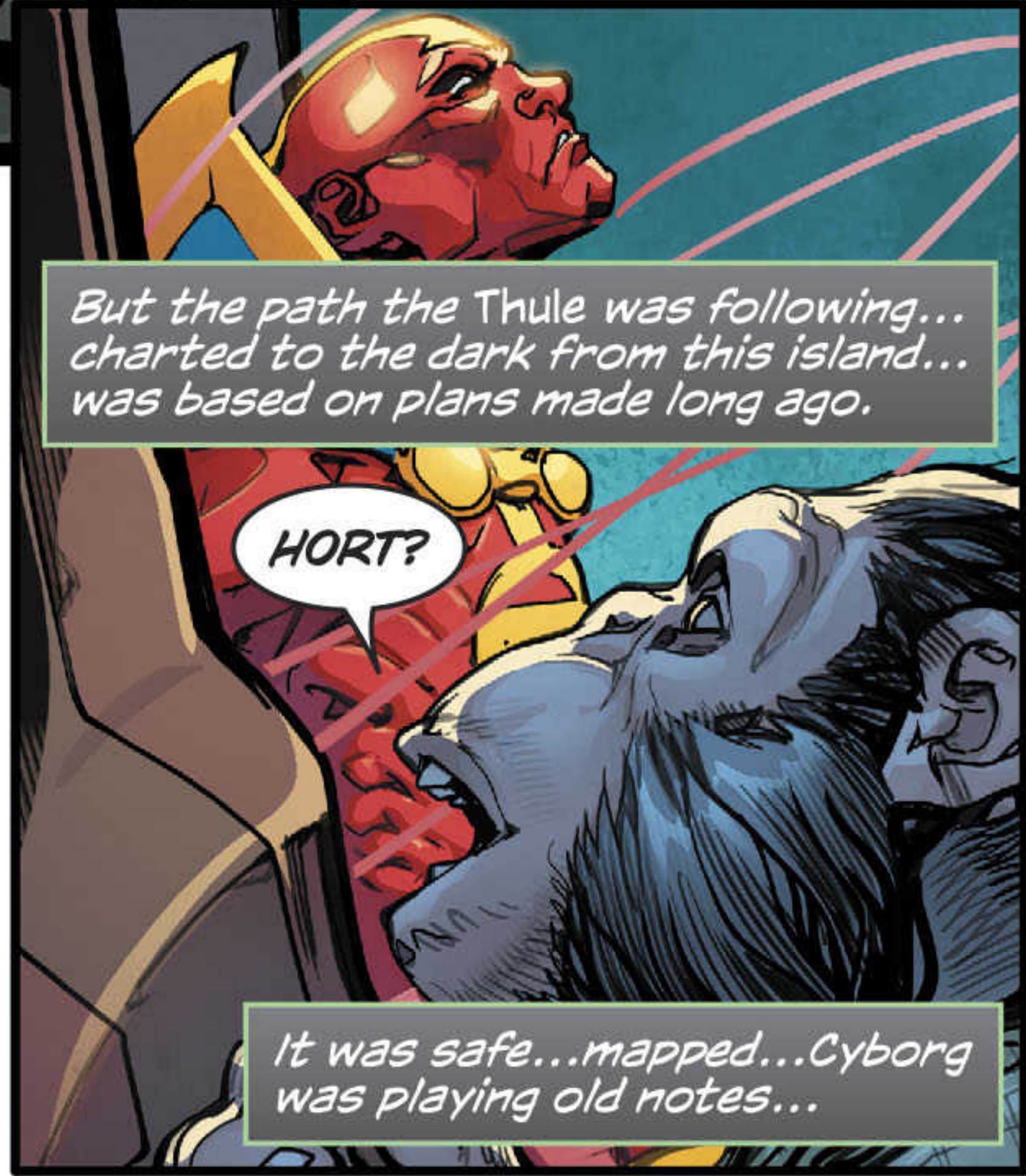
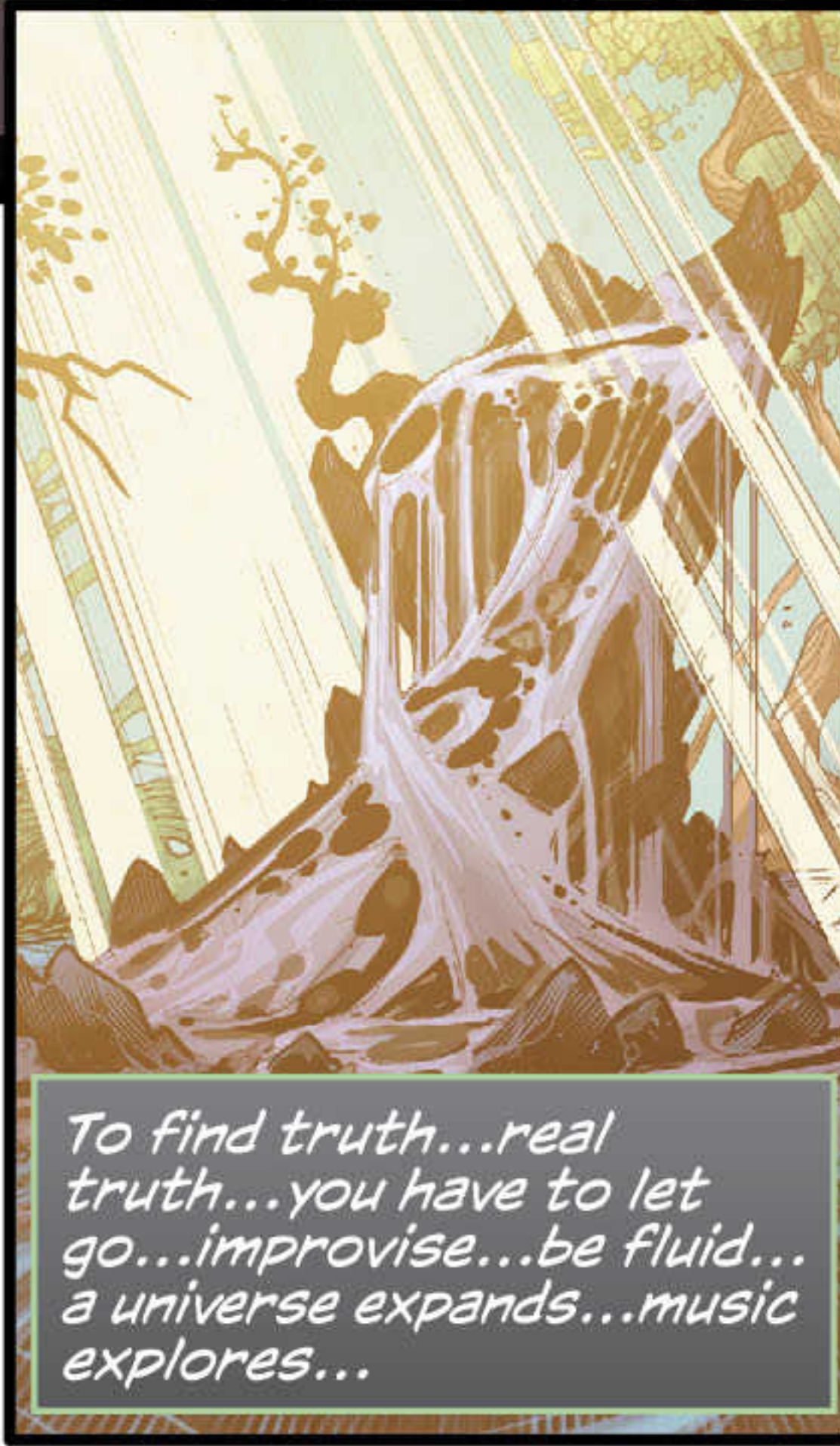
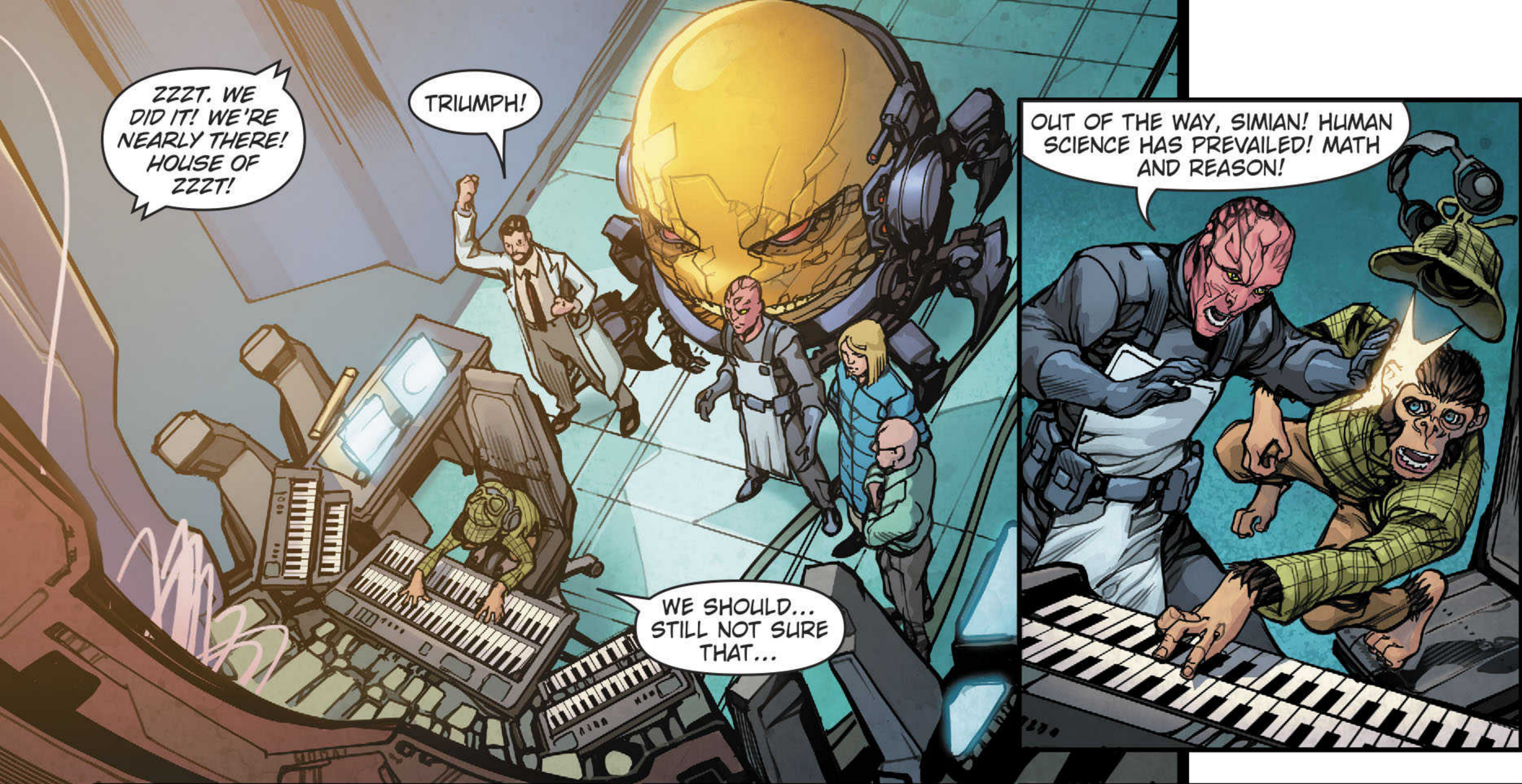


YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS, OF COURSE.













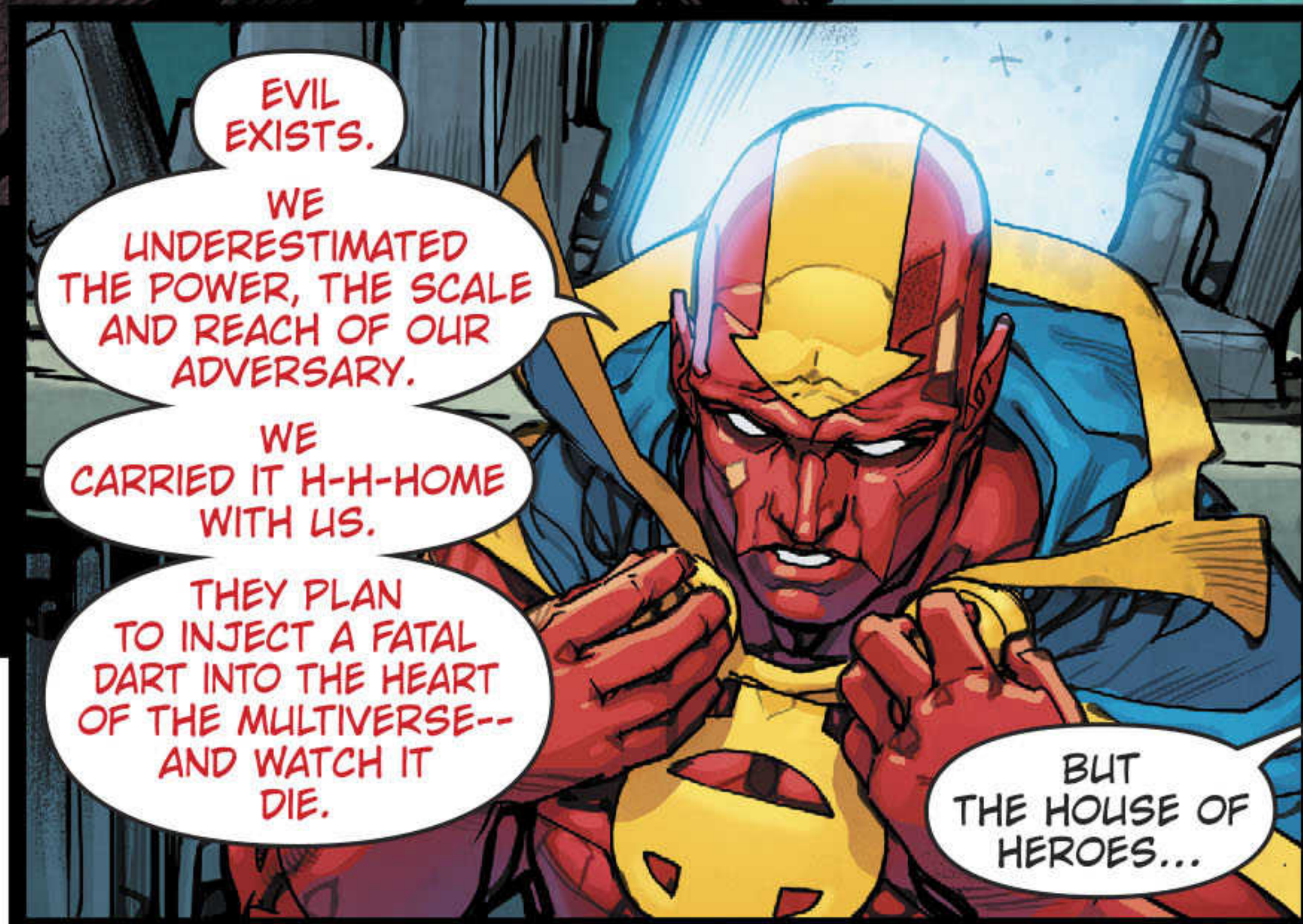
YOU -ZZZT-...YOU  
DON'T UNDERSTAND...  
THE DOOR...

SPEAK,  
IT'S ME, YOUR  
CREATOR!

THE CHALLENGERS...  
W-W-WERE HEADED ON  
THE DIVINE F-FREQUENCY TO  
THE HOUSE OF HEROES...BUT WE  
OPENED THE DOOR TO **BARBATOS**,  
TO THE DARK...WE WERE  
POISONED...AIMED AT THE  
HEART OF HOPE...

WE...TURNED  
BACK...WE CAME  
HOME...CLOSED THE  
DOOR AS FAST AS  
WE COULD.

OH  
GOD...



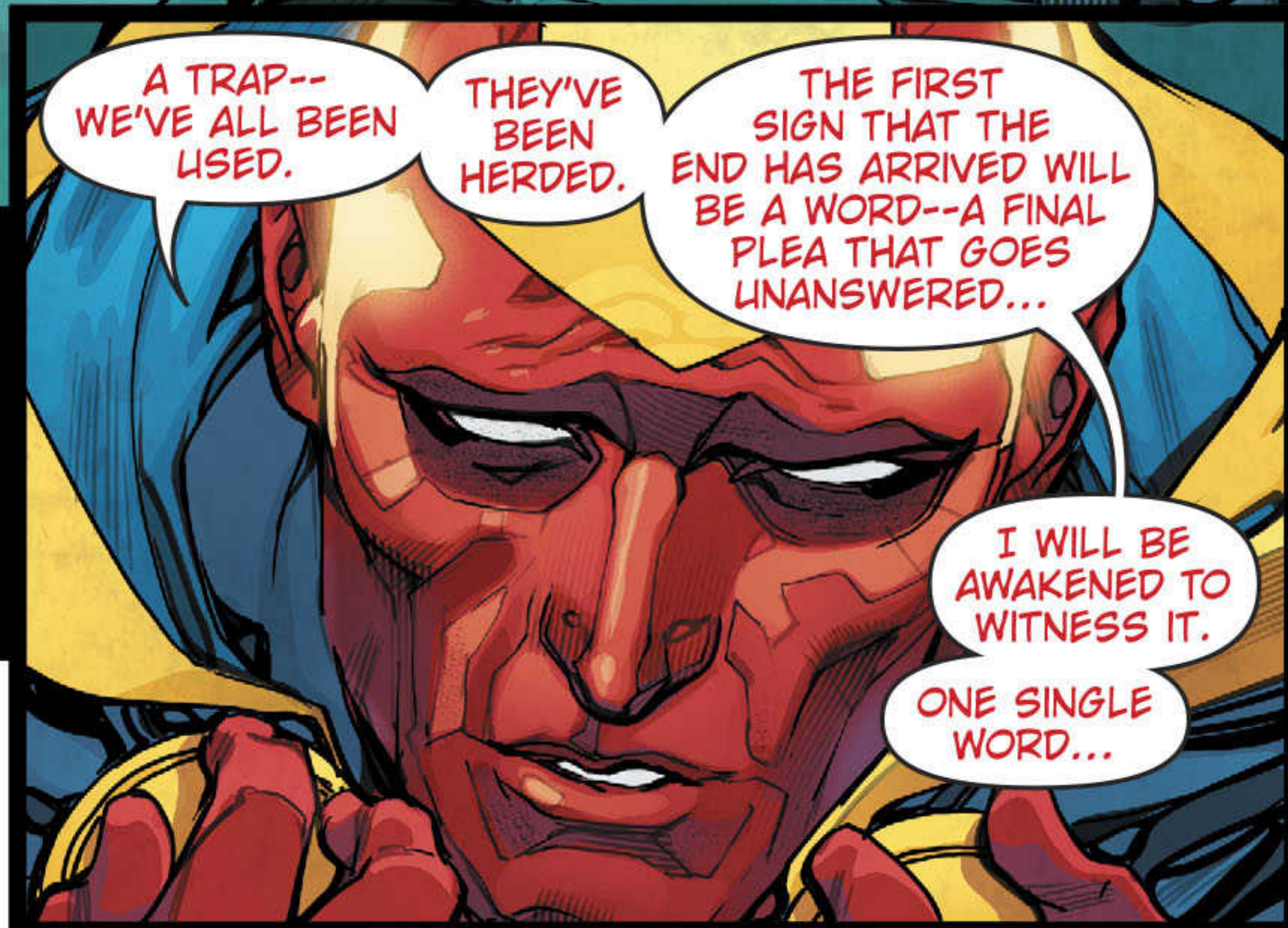
EVIL  
EXISTS.

WE  
UNDERESTIMATED  
THE POWER, THE SCALE  
AND REACH OF OUR  
ADVERSARY.

WE  
CARRIED IT H-H-HOME  
WITH US.

THEY PLAN  
TO INJECT A FATAL  
DART INTO THE HEART  
OF THE MULTIVERSE--  
AND WATCH IT  
DIE.

BUT  
THE HOUSE OF  
HEROES...



A TRAP--  
WE'VE ALL BEEN  
USED.

THEY'VE  
BEEN  
HERDED.

THE FIRST  
SIGN THAT THE  
END HAS ARRIVED WILL  
BE A WORD--A FINAL  
PLEA THAT GOES  
UNANSWERED...

I WILL BE  
AWAKENED TO  
WITNESS IT.

ONE SINGLE  
WORD...



...HELP.

PLEASE.  
CAN SOMEBODY  
HELP ME?

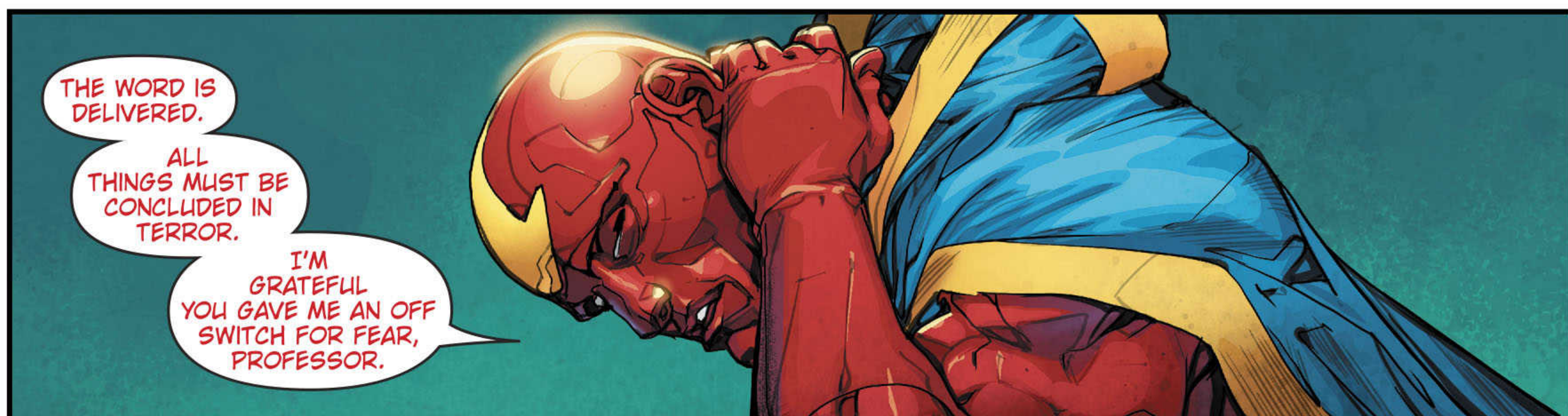
WHATEVER  
HAPPENED  
TO ME--AT  
FOUNTAIN--

--UNHAPPENING--  
EVERYTHING WRONG--  
MY MIND--

--BROKEN--  
CONNECTIONS--

--EVERYTHING--  
HOOT--HOO--

HORTT!



THE WORD IS  
DELIVERED.

ALL  
THINGS MUST BE  
CONCLUDED IN  
TERROR.

I'M  
GRATEFUL  
YOU GAVE ME AN OFF  
SWITCH FOR FEAR,  
PROFESSOR.



SOMEBODY  
WARN THEM!!!

CALLING  
FLASH!

S!O!S!





--REDDEATHNOBARRYDIDITTHEYCAN'TFOLLOWUSNOW--

FULLSPEEDAHEADTO--



...THE  
HOUSE OF  
HEROES...

FLASH!  
THE CARRIER'S  
WARHEADS...WE CAN'T  
STOP--

WE  
CAN'T TURN  
AROUND.



WE'RE A  
POISON DART,  
FIRED STRAIGHT AT  
THE HEART OF  
EVERYTHING.

THEY...  
WANTED  
THIS?

THEY  
WEREN'T HUNTING  
US, THEY WERE  
AIMING US.

...WE  
NEED A MIRACLE  
NOW...



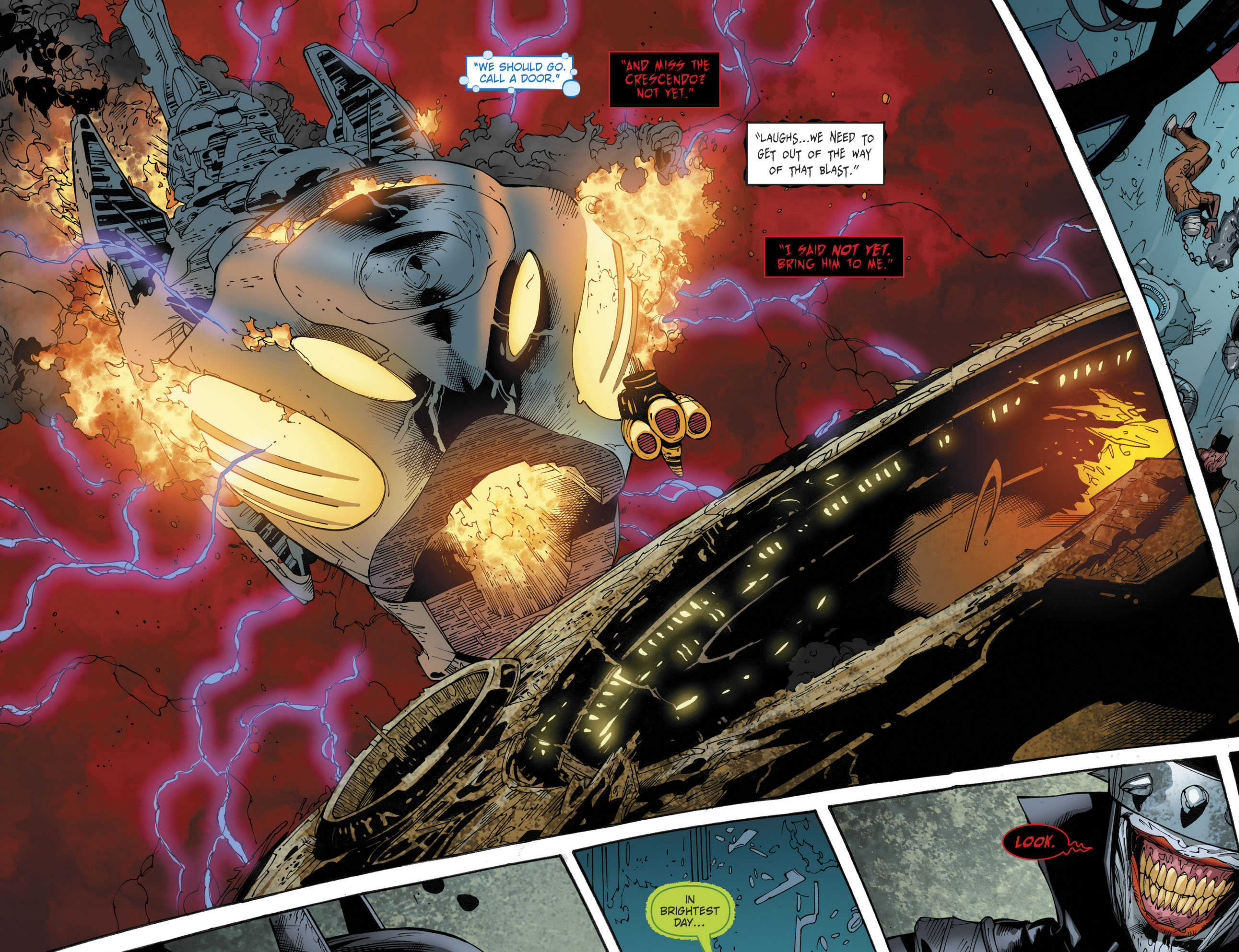
GUYS!

I'M GETTING  
A--RESPONSE  
TO YOUR MAYDAY,  
FLASH...  
BUT...



It's too  
late...





"WE SHOULD GO.  
CALL A DOOR."

"AND MISS THE  
CRESCENDO?  
NOT YET."

"LAUGHS...WE NEED TO  
GET OUT OF THE WAY  
OF THAT BLAST."

"I SAID NOT YET.  
BRING HIM TO ME."



HERE HE IS.  
WE HAVE MOMENTS  
BEFORE---

HA!

ONLY THE MOST  
POWERFUL BEING  
IN THE MULTIVERSE,  
PERHAPS--

--ON ITS KNEES.

AT MY  
FEET!

THE ULTIMA  
THULE IS RECEIVING  
A SIGNAL...  
A MESSAGE--  
FROM UNIVERSE  
53.  
BUT--  
THERE  
IS NO 53rd  
UNIVERSE.



SPREAD YOUR  
VAST AND MIDNIGHT  
WINGS, BAT GOD,  
BARBOTOS!

I AM THE  
WAYNE AND THE  
WAGON!

BEHOLD THE  
MULTIVERSE!

IN  
BRIGHTEST  
DAY...

LOOK.

I SAID  
LOOK! OR  
I'LL PULL YOUR  
COSMIC EYELIDS  
OFF.

A  
HUNDRED  
TRILLION  
HOPES AND  
DREAMS!

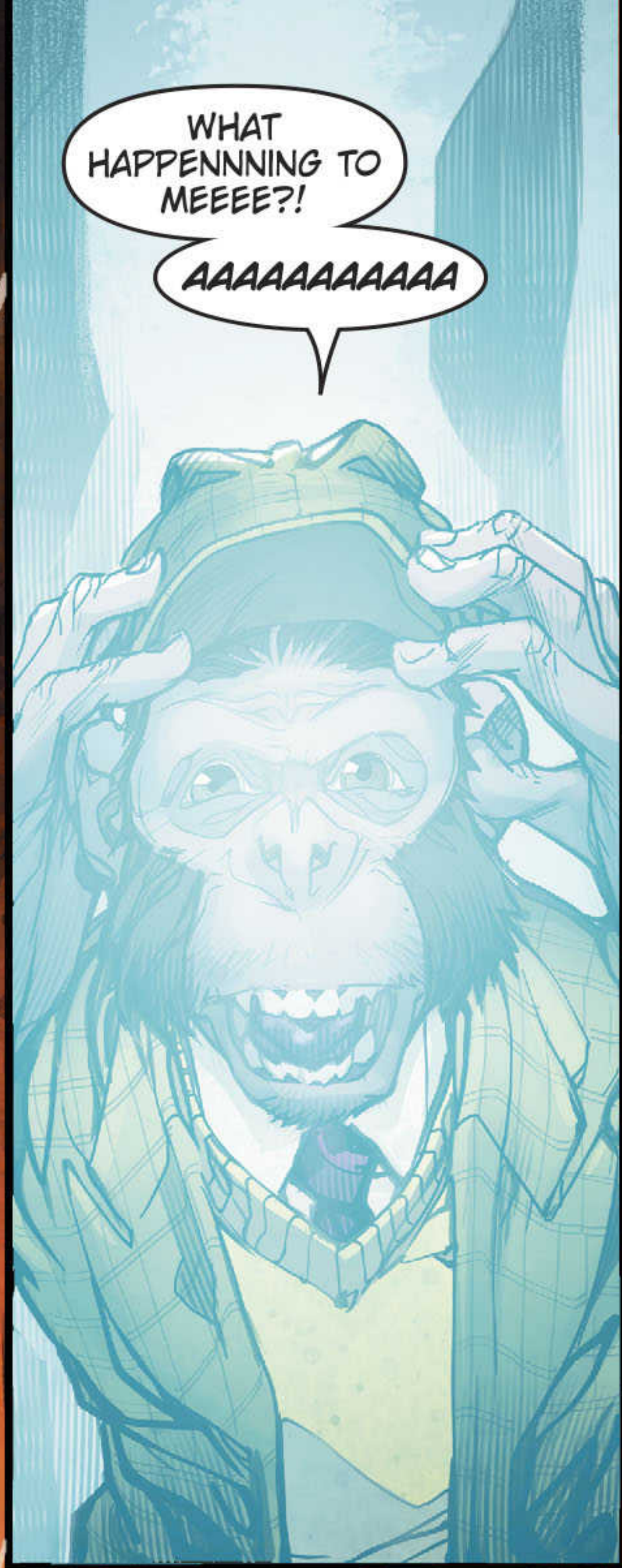
"A HUNDRED  
TRILLION FUTURES."

OVER,  
FASTER THAN  
YOU CAN SAY  
"DOOR."







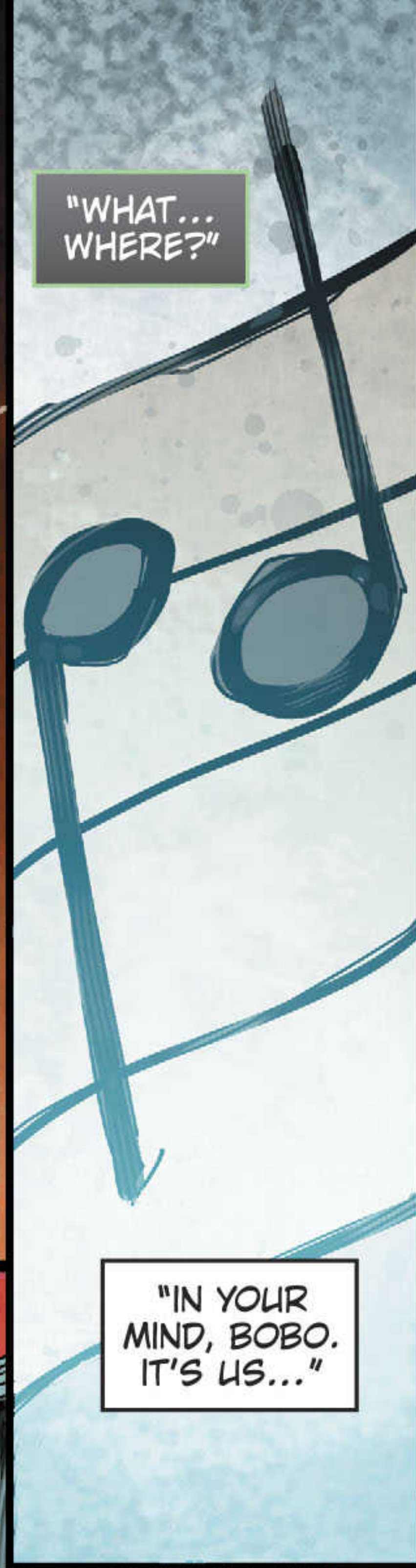


WHAT  
HAPPENNING TO  
MEEEE?!

AAAAAAAAAAAA



"BOBO...  
BOBO,  
HEAR ME."



"WHAT...  
WHERE?"

"IN YOUR  
MIND, BOBO.  
IT'S US..."



STUBBS?  
WHU--WHUH  
HAPPEN?  
WHERE  
IS THIS?

WE SUPER-  
CHIMPS.

GOTTA  
STICK TOGETHER  
TILL THE END, I  
SAY.



"D.C."

YOU  
WONDERED WHAT  
IT MEANT, BUT THINK  
ABOUT IT, BOBO...  
BROTHER...

"DETECTIVE  
CHIMP."

WE'VE  
WATCHED YOUR  
LIFE.

IMMORTALITY  
HAS ITS  
REWARDS.

WE GOT  
THIS FIXED BACK  
IN 2067. THE 53rd  
WORLD IS HERE  
TO HELP.  
SO...





...READY TO  
SAVE THE UNIVERSE,  
BOBO?

**TO BE CONCLUDED IN METAL #6!**